CDXC CHILTERN DX CLUB The UK DX Foundation

NewsLetter

May 1996 CDXC - The UK DX Foundation Issue 101

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: JUNE 7th (LATE NEWS 21st)

CHILTERN DX CLUB - *The UK DX Foundation* - Aims and Objectives

"The aim of the Club is to promote HF operating, to encourage excellence, particularly in DXing and contest operating, through mutual assistance and by encouraging support of DXpeditions, the issue of achievement awards, or whatever other means is deemed to be appropriate"

Membership: Membership of CDXC is open to any amateur or SWL who has 100 DXCC countries confirmed on the HF bands. New members must be proposed by at least two club members.

Subscriptions: The annual subscription is currently set at £12.00 for UK members, and £17.00 for overseas members. The subscription for new members joining between 1st January and 30th June is 50% of the annual subscription. Subscriptions become due on July 1st in each year, and should be sent to the Treasurer (address above).

Newsletter: This newsletter is published six times per year. Articles for publication should be sent to the Newsletter Editor (address above) by the published deadline. *Please note that opinions expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Committee.*

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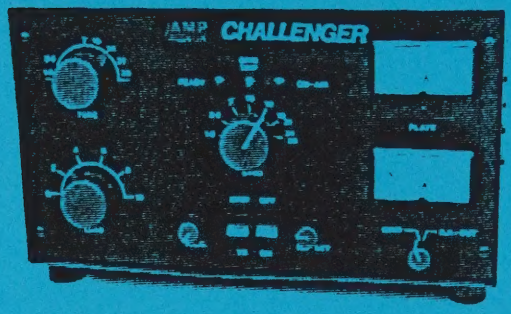

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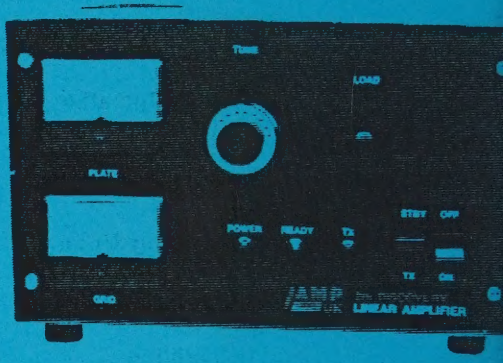

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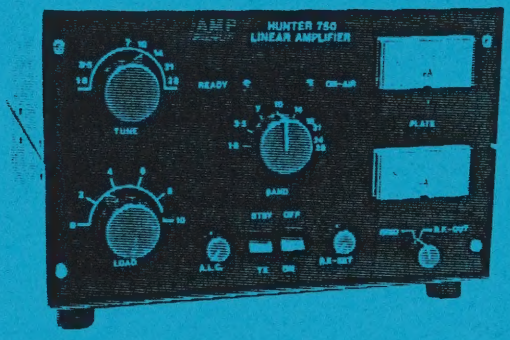

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EDITORIAL

Alan Jubb, G3PMR

Hello all, and a very special welcome to our new members, many of whom joined following our presence on the Yaesu stand at Picketts Lock.

Having recently finished processing the M1OOG QSL cards, including around 300 SWL reports, I'd like to make a few comments about SWL QSLs. When I receive a report on my own signals from G3PMR (which, unfortunately, is a rare occurrence), I appreciate receiving a very detailed report, which gives me an idea of what signals were being heard at the same time on the band in question, what my own signal strength and quality was like, details on the receiving set-up, especially the antenna, etc. All this helps to build a picture of conditions at the time, and may lead to a better understanding of propagation, provide information for station improvements, or to improve operating ability. On one off reports like this, I have time to thoroughly read and absorb the information. I will always respond to a good SWL report. However, as QSL Manager for a special event station, faced with a mountain of QSLs, my main interest is in getting through the work load in the shortest possible time. I don't have time to read detailed reports, and, even if I did, the information is unlikely to be of any value, and of no more than passing interest. Using computer logging (and I wouldn't contemplate being a QSL Manager without access to such a tool), the quickest way to verify that an SWL report is valid is to enter the call sign of the station that was being worked, check that the date, band, mode, and time match those on the QSL, and press a key to print a QSL acknowledging the report. Simple, and quick! If only it were that easy! SWL QSLs often don't mention the station being worked, or, if they do, the writing is near illegible, or the call is buried in a mass of other information. All this slows the processing down, and invariably results in the QSL being put to the bottom of the pile for later processing. The ideal SWL QSL, reporting on a special event station QSO, would comprise only call sign of station being worked, together with date, time, band and mode. I'm not even interested in the signal report. This information is all that's required to verify the report is for a valid QSO, and should be written clearly in block capitals. This would make the poor QSL Manager's life so much easier! Much of the above would also be true for incoming QSL cards for stations worked, except in the case where every QSO is QSL'd automatically. In this case, incoming QSLs go

straight in the bin!

David Evans, G3OUF, has recently relinquished being SysOp of GB7DXH, after several years. I'd like to personally thank David for the excellent service he has provided - I am sure that a significant amount of work and expenditure is involved in running a PacketCluster node. I wish David luck in his new venture in VE6-land. The new SysOp of GB7DXH is Maury Peiperl, G0UHK, who is located at Harrow-on-the-Hill. I wish Maury every success in this rôle. Down here in West Cambridgeshire, it's currently a bit of a wilderness as far as PacketCluster access is concerned. Harrow is significantly further away than Hemel Hempstead, and I am unable to connect direct. Indeed, so far I have been unable to find a satisfactory route into DXH since the move. My traditional fallback, when not being able to access DXH has always been GB7BPQ in Nottingham. However, links to BPQ from this area have been down for many weeks, and I can't get in there at all. Currently, I am using GB7YDX in York. However, that's a long way from Cambridgeshire, and requires a fairly tortuous route with four or five hops. Consequently, connections are far from reliable - apologies to those of you who have tried to send items for this NewsLetter via PacketCluster - you will know the problems I have had in reading some of them! Having said all that, I really do appreciate all the effort that goes in to keeping the PacketCluster system running.

I haven't yet seen the full results of the 1995 21/28MHz SSB contest, but congratulations are due to Dave Sharred, G3NKC who has the certificate for 1st place in the single operator section, guest operating from G3NAS QTH. Well done, Dave.

Elsewhere in this issue, you will find a number of hints and tips. I think that one of the things that CDXC offers with a large number of experienced HF operators is advice on operating and other matters, and would like to offer a couple of simple tips that I find of great value. The first concerns making relevant information on DX that I need at the forefront of my mind. I run an electronic diary on my PC, and enter into it details of all forthcoming DX that I would like to work. I use this mainly for IOTA and DXCC purposes. Each week when DXNS arrives, I scan it for news of operations that I need a QSO with, and enter the information into the diary. Also, information from other sources is entered. The diary is in my Windows start up group, so that each time I start the PC, I am immediately presented with details of all interesting operations that day. For a very small investment in time, this has proved very effective at increasing my IOTA score. Secondly, I use Geoclock, and have deleted all the cities from the world map, and have replaced them with the prefixes of the DXCC countries that I still need. This allows me to see at a glance where wanted countries lie in relation to the grey-line.

Bob Treacher, BRS32525, has suggested that, following the outstanding 160m conditions this winter, I should publish a table of countries worked on top band over the winter. I will do this as a one off in the July NewsLetter, qualifying number 100. Entries by the usual deadline please (see front cover).

By the time you read this, ZL8RI should be active from Raoul Island - good luck if you need it!

I'm sure you will have noticed that this issue is not as weighty as recent issues. As the next issue (July) will be my last as Editor, I'd like to make a special plea to all to make a special effort to supply relevant items of HF interest.

Please don't forget the ARM. As well as being a fun social day, this is the one business meeting of the year. Please support it. Remember also, that all Committee posts are up for re-election. Nominations to the Secretary, G0HXN, please.

Finally, as always, my grateful thanks to all contributors, plus DXNS, DXNM.

Alan Jubb, G3PMR.

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Neville Cheadle, G3NUG

Our first ever attendance at Picketts Lock in March went very smoothly and was a worthwhile effort. Thanks to Barry, G4RKO, who made part of the Yaesu stand available to us as a DX/HF/IOTA corner. We distributed around 100 copies of the new Prospectus and signed up 10 new Members, all of whom are active DXers. It was also great to meet around 25 CDXC Members who called in to see us. With the new joiners we have now broken through the '250 barrier'. Our numbers have doubled in the past two years.

We also had the IOTA/Yaesu rig with the FT-900AT on the stand and there was much interest in this. This can be made available to CDXC Members, please just get in touch. We also distributed around 300 IOTA brochures.

For our next foray into the public scene we would like to assemble a collection of Members' QSL cards for their operations from abroad. To this we would add cards for the DXpeditions that we have sponsored. We can make an attractive display of these cards, so could I ask Members to send their cards to Dave, G0HXN, our Secretary, who has kindly agreed to organise the display.

In April I was asked to join the HFCC think-tank discussions on the RSGB IOTA Contest. This contest is growing at around 50% per annum and there were 650 entries last year. I believe that we came up with some sound proposals as to how to deal with the increasing administrative burdens of this contest. In this connection, if any Member is willing to help with the checking of logs please do get in touch with me.

The next IOTA Contest takes place over the weekend of 27/28 July. For those Members who may not be contest addicts but who would like to make a start on the IOTA awards, this contest is ideal. Well over 100 different island groups should be active and thus it becomes relatively easy to qualify for the basic 100 islands award.

In the March NewsLetter I wrote an article entitled "QSLing Ethics". A number of Members have written supporting this approach which was also set out in my May IOTA column in RadCom. Once I have received some feedback from the RadCom article, I will raise this matter with the RSGB HF Committee to see whether we can promote the guidelines more widely.

Members may know that I wrote offering help to over 20 stations who have been reported as failing to process a substantial number of IOTA QSLs. I have received some responses including clarification of QSL routes but no logs. It is so disappointing that these stations will not send copies of their logs to us. We have eight volunteer QSL managers, we have the Yaesu QSL cards; all we need are the logs and we could make many DXers and island chasers very happy.

I was very interested to read John's, G4DQW, article in the March 1996 NewsLetter about electronic QSLs. It certainly gives much food for thought. If only we could find a sound way of doing away with card QSLs and use electronic QSLs for awards applications. Wouldn't that be great! Alternatively, central awards records could be updated from computer-based logs. This would make a huge difference to DXCC and IOTA award processing and reduce the costs of our hobby considerably.

Some views from Members would be much appreciated on the relative emphasis that we should place on our two names The Club is known as CDXC -- the Chiltern DX Club and UK DX Foundation. We added "UK DX Foundation" about three years ago when John, G3WGV, was Chairman. I am wondering whether we should now be giving

more emphasis to the "UK DX Foundation" part of our name, so reflecting our much broader spread of Members. Let's have your views please.

Planning for the RSGB 1996 International HF and IOTA Convention (4/6 October) is going well under Colin's, G3PSM, Chairmanship. We plan to make this the best Convention so far. The programme will include the following talks that have already been firmed up.

- The DXCC Programme -- Bill Kennamer, K5FUV
- HF Amplifiers -- Peter Rodmell, G3ZRS,
- Linear Amp UK
- Tower Safety -- David Rowley, Strumech Engineering
- The History of BERU -- Bob Whelan, G3PJT
- The XR0Y DXpedition -- Vincent Denecker, G0LMX
- Latest HF Equipment Reviews -- Chris Lorek, G4HCL
- Young Amateur of the Year presentation -- Radio Communications Agency
- HF Contests Trophies presentation -- HF Contests Committee
- The XZ1A DXpedition -- Bill Kennamer, K5FUV
- A New Vision for IOTA followed by a Question and Answer Session -- IOTA Committee.

In addition, we hope to firm up some further talks during the next few weeks. These should include talks on technical issues, propagation, LF antennas, planning considerations and a Contest Forum. As requested in last year's exit survey there will be more repeats than during previous years. The Convention brochure and booking form are now being finalised. These will contain outlines of the programme, details of the social activities and the various residential packages, and charges. The plan is to circulate the brochure and booking form very widely in May. It will be sent to all CDXC Members.

Early booking is advised as we expect a large number of overseas visitors including many IOTA enthusiasts. Remember that on the last similar occasion in 1994, we filled the Beaumont dining room to its capacity of 250 for the DX Dinner. Since that date the numbers pursuing the IOTA Programme have almost doubled!

We hope to finalise the detailed programme, including the timing of talks, in June or early July and this programme will be widely publicised in this NewsLetter, RadCom and in DXNS.

Martin Lynch, the RSGB and Yaesu UK Limited are again sponsoring the Convention. Barry has promised to make available to us a really attractive main raffle prize. Thank you Barry -- more about this later.

These are the dates for future HF Conventions:

12-14 September 1997
11-13 September 1998
10-12 September 1999
8-10 September 2000

Your Committee recently agreed to contribute £200.00 to the forthcoming Sable Island DXpedition, CY0AA, in June. This contribution has been matched by the RSGB DXpedition Fund. Much LF and RTTY activity is promised. The Sable Island team has confirmed that they will process bureau cards and that they will print the combined CDXC/RSGB logo on the CY0AA cards. Good luck everyone.

And so finally to the Annual Review

Meeting and Summer Social on Saturday 6 July at our home Further Felden. We start at 12 o'clock with the ARM, followed by a special EGM to consider (and hopefully approve) the revised Constitution. The formalities should be over by 1pm. Let's have another good turnout this year and pray for fine weather. Do bring wives, partners and children -- there will be plenty here for everyone. Trish and I will provide the food, please bring your own drinks. Please return the enclosed slip to Dave, G0HXN, so that we know the numbers to cater for. Directions to Further Felden are on the back of the note. See you here!

JOTTINGS BY THE SECRETARY

Dave Mann G0HXN

Well, my little missive about emergencies really got a good response. Many thanks to those of you who rang me and sent me messages by email. It was as I thought, given the same circumstances or similar we all do what comes naturally, not necessarily what is legal. Perhaps the powers that be should really look closely at the 3rd party regulations. (Even though greetings messages have been relaxed over the past year or so), especially when you consider where and under what harrowing circumstances amateurs have used their equipment for the benefit of others. One only has to think of the Lockerbie and Zeebrugge disasters to realise that the so called "professionals" would have been nowhere with their communications without "Amateurs".

Whilst I am on about members who rang me, look out for the next exploits of Roy G4CMT, one of our septuagenarians, who will be on the 1st. June leaping out of an aircraft at 14000 ft. and during the fall to mother earth will be transmitting both CW and Phone using the call GB4SRF, all in aid of the Raywell Park Scout and Guide Amateur Radio Station at Cottingham. This group provides training facilities for the Novice Radio Licence, and Scout and Guide Badgework. If you feel that this tremendous feat deserves encouragement I might add that this jump is ***SPONSORED*** so how about dropping Roy a cheque. Good luck Roy! I know it's your last jump, and I also know you are just recovering from a broken arm.

Did many of you manage to work Bert CT3/PA3GIO/M whilst he was on holiday recently. I managed to work him on three bands, it's always nice to greet our members over the air, especially as Bert sent me his QSL cards immediately on his return, and very nice they are to. Bert will be again QRV later on in the year from GD, hopefully I shall manage to catch him there as well. Look out for further details. I see that another member G0UHK Maury is now the SysOp for GB7DXH from his lofty perch at Harrow on the Hill. I think that all the SysOps and assistant SysOps who spend hours of their own time looking after the needs of the many do a magnificent job. Well done all

Hopefully I shall meet many of you at the AGM/EGM on July 6th at Neville's. Lets hope the weather is as good as last year. I hope you will all have read the draft constitution in the last NewsLetter. I look forward to any comments. The idea was to regularise ourselves. When the Club came into being it was with a fairly limited membership, and now we have now grown to over 250. These rules not only protect you the member, but also the members of the committee who have to administer the funds. And as one of our primary objectives is to raise funds for DXpeditions the greater our numbers the more we can contribute. If you have anything to say about the draft please don't sit on it but let either me or one of the committee members know your views. 73 for now. See you in the Summer. Dave G0HXN.

CDXC SUBSCRIPTIONS 1996/97

Mike Potter, G4PFF

CDXC subscriptions for the membership year 1996/97 (which runs from July 1st, 1996 to June 30th, 1997) are due on 1st July 1996. I'm sorry, but it's that time of year again.

Subscriiptions have been set as follows:

£12.00 for members resident within U.K.
£17.00 for all members resident outside U.K.

See the front cover of this NewsLetter for more details.

You can pay by:-

Cheque (from U.K. Banks only please)made out to CDXC
Cash (Registered Post only please)
$US Cash (at rate of $2 to £1)
Standing Order (on a U.K. Bank account only).

We regret that we are not able to accept credit cards or direct debits.

If you currently pay by standing order then there is no action needed this year if you completed the form last year.

Subscription payments should be posted to the Treasurer only, at the following address:

Mike Potter, G4PFF
38 West Street
Gt. Gransden
Sandy
Beds
SG19 3AU
U.K.

Please do not send subscription payments to other Committee members, as delay and loss are more likely.

If you have any questions about what to pay or how to pay then please drop me a line in the post or via the Cluster.

73 Mike G4PFF Treasurer

LETTERS

Dear Alan,

As a fairly recent recruit to CDXC, I have a couple of suggestions regarding the club constitution and membership.

Firstly, taking up the idea raised by Bruce Smith (G3HSR) in the March 1996 NewsLetter, I would support the introduction of a new "CDXC Affiliate" membership class with relaxed entry criteria specifically aimed at newcomers to the club. Many professional organisations operate similarly with special membership categories, normally intended for trainees undertaking formal examinations for full membership. The criteria for entry-level membership should not exclude enthusiastic but inexperienced newcomers, while criteria for promotion to full membership should both protect the status of existing CDXC Members and encourage newcomers to further their skills. New recruits might be encouraged to contribute actively to the Club's aims, for example by writing articles for the NewsLetter, volunteering to help-out on CDXC exhibition stands etc., and/or to further their operating or construction skills e.g. by being awarded DXCC and achieving a top-ten placing in an HF contest. In line with the American principle of "Elmers", the Club could even consider whether newcomers might be tutored and encouraged by existing full members in their locality or more distantly using the cluster network, Internet etc.

Secondly, as the club moves towards representing "all British Isles DXCC members", I wondered if it might be possible for the club to become an accredited DXCC checking desk on behalf of ARRL, checking DXCC applications, QSL cards etc. for UK DXers? If this were possible, it would simultaneously provide a most valuable service (not least to avoid sending priceless QSLs across the pond), raise the profile of CDXC and perhaps give club members a greater voice in the DXCC program. Would our Honor Roll members (whom the ARRL would

undoubtedly wish to involve in the checking) be prepared to consider this idea and perhaps take it forward with the Americans?

73, Gary G4IFB

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Dear Alan

I am writing to thank you for my confirmation of membership of CDXC, which has just arrived. Having read in the NewsLetter of the exploits of those members who have vast acreages covered in huge antennas and are able to work DX at the drop of a hat, I feel that my 100 watts (admittedly from an unusually wide choice of rigs!) to a basic wire antenna in my suburban garden either represents a touch of reality or the radio equivalent of Kate Moss at a Dolly Parton look-alike contest! Time will tell which it is, I guess.

On a more serious note, I am very pleased to have been accepted as a member. My early contacts with the Club were at various RSGB, IOTA and general HF events, when I noticed that all the top HF operators seemed to be wearing these unusually shaped badges with "CDXC" on them. At every HF event, they seemed to hold positions of influence on the organising committees. Having read a copy of the Newsletter and finding myself in complete agreement with the Club's stated Aims and Objectives, I started to check through my QSL cards to see if I had the required 100 confirmations on HF. At that time, I could only muster about 90, so I put them aside and kept sending out cards. Sometime later, I recounted my collection, and found that I had 98! This was getting too close, so I sat down with every card that I could find in odd boxes and albums - I carefully checked every ex-USSR card for its Oblast and cross-referenced them to the Republic concerned. Finally, my recounted total was 102. Success! This was the week before the Picketts Lock Show, so I was very pleased indeed to be able to hand my completed application form to Neville and David for processing.

It is a very great pleasure to join CDXC, and I wish the Club much success in its efforts to raise the art and science of HF DXing to new heights.

Yours sincerely

David Wilkins, G5HY
Sales & Marketing - Communications Division,
Trio-Kenwood U.K. Limited.

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Hi Alan,

I have recently made a submission to DXCC to get me up to 250 mixed - to my disappointment, when I received my QSLs back one had been rejected for lack of documentation. I sent a letter to the ARRL and this is the reply I received back from Bill Kennamer K5FUV

Dear Steve.

Thanks for your letter

The Operation of 6O0A is not credited for DXCC purposes. This area, in Eastern Somalia, appears to be a breakaway republic which has no international recognition. It is highly likely that the operator prepared his own license form.

The operator of this station is known for other activities from breakaway areas. A few years ago he was heard from Bougainville, a part of Papua New Guinea, operating as C1A. $5 US would bring a you a copy of that licence too. However, as we know Bougain is not a recognised country. The last we heard, the Australian government was interested in talking with this individual in connection with these Bougainville activities.

Thanks for your interest in the DXCC program

73 es DX

Bill Kennamer K5FUV DXCC Manager

As you can see the 6O0A is no hope the operator of the station was VK2BVS who sent me a copy of his license that looked all official along with a long letter telling me about all of the various activities in Somalia. As you can see the ARRL seem to think he prints his own!

Steve G4OWT

<==+==>

Alan,

The following, received from W4MGN, will be of interest to a number of the long-standing CDXC members.

Hello Don, What a nice surprise greeted me today, when I turned on my e mail, and found your 160 NewsLetter, and your address! I have been trying to find a way I could say hello to all my friends in the Chiltern DX club, but have been unsuccessful in locating any addresses. Does Roger Brown or Henry have e mail addresses? I'd love to get in touch with them. I'm also looking for an address for Peter Weatherall, G3MLO, who, I think has a packet cluster on the air. I keep seeing his call in the OH2 cluster, which I access on the Internet.

At any rate, I'm still DXing on the low bands, both 160 and 75. I've worked 11 new ones on 160 this year, and am presently at 209 (finally broke the 200 barrier, hi).

Hope all is well with you. Pse pass my very best 73 to all the gang.

Ed W4MGN Edmun B. Richmond is Professor of Modern Languages and International Affairs at Georgia Institute of Technology, Department of Modern Languages, Atlanta, GA 30332-0375. Telephone (404) 894-7327, FAX (404) 853-0955.

Don Field, G3XTT

WELCOME!!

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to welcome the following new members to CDXC:

BRS31976	Michael Toms	Rayleigh, Essex
G0DEZ	Dez Watson	Honiton, Devon
G0LUQ	Terry Vale	Bicester, Oxon
G0OIL	David White	Rampton, Notts
G0UUT	Elan Sadeh	Borehamwood
G3VIR	Roland Brade	Camberley, Surrey
G3VRY	James Pitt	Chesham, Bucks
G4IQM	David Hill	Crawlley
G5HY	David Wilkins	Harrow Weald
UT8LL	Victor Russinov	Kharkov

The Committee hopes that all of you will enjoy being members of CDXC, *The UK DX Foundation*, and that, where possible, you will get involved in CDXC activities.

David Mann, G0HXN, Secretary.

A HINGED MAST-TO-BOOM BRACKET FOR LARGE BEAMS

Neville Cheadle, G3NUG

A number of Members have asked me for a drawing of the hinged mast-to-boom bracket described in the January 1996 NewsLetter. In fact drawings are included in a similar article in the May RadCom. If anyone would like a copy of the drawing please send me a C5 SAE.

It is worth noting that many of the smaller jobbing type of engineering companies who can make this type of bracket involving the welding of stainless steel, are unlikely to be able to obtain the stainless steel bar stock and plates at competitive prices. This was the case with the local company that I used. In fact I bought the stainless steel as scrap from a local stainless steel fabricator who was able to guillotine the sheet to the correct size. This made for a relatively inexpensive solution.

ADVANCE CONTEST INFORMATION

Ken Chandler, G0ORH

Welcome to the advance contest information section of the CDXC NewsLetter. I hope that you all had some thing to keep you occupied with over the last couple of months. Unfortunately, though not surprisingly, propagation was not good in the vast majority of events, especially the BERU contest. Last year like most, I worked a good number of DX stations, but this year was rather disappointing, not even the VEs supported this year's BERU!! (or was it I just didn't work them?!!). I put this down to VEs watching their man in the Australian Grand Prix, or is it that the Commonwealth just isn't that popular any more? While on the subject of BERU, I gather from the Cluster network that a few suggestions have been put out. Unfortunately I have not seen these remarks to comment on but I gather they proposed some rather radical changes for the future of this contest. The RSGB HF Contest Committee (HFCC) is holding an all day meeting in early April 96, to sort through, and discuss in depth, all, or the majority of RSGB contests i.e., IOTA, NFD, BERU, etc. so look forward to some rule amendments in the September edition RSGB Contesting Rules Guide.

It was nice to operate in the QRS Cumulative contest in early April, I in fact worked no less than 16 new would be contesters on 80m CW at a sedate 12 WPM and at times even slower than that. Great fun for me using an old Vibroplex key, the speed of dots wound down by the addition of a lump of Blue tack on the weight. 10 of these QSOs were with new G0 calls and first time entrants at that. Perhaps the message is getting across, and more and more new, and old hands are taking their first steps in contesting. Lets hope it continues that way.

CONTEST RULES

ARI INTERNATIONAL DX CONTEST

When: 4/5May, 2000z-2000z

Entry classes:

Single operator CW/SSB/RTTY/mixed; Multioperator single transmitter, mixed; SWL.

Exchange: RS(T) and three-digit serial no, starting with 001 (Italian stations will exchange signal report & two-letter province identifier).

Change bands no more than once every 10 minutes.

Scoring: 10 points per QSO with I/IS0 stations; 3 points per QSO with stations on different continents; 1 point per QSO with stations on the same continent. Contacts with own country count 0 points, but are good for multiplier credit. The same station may be worked on CW/SSB/RTTY, but counts only once for multiplier credit. Multipliers are the DXCC countries and Italian provinces (95 max.). Final score is total points times total multipliers. Post entries within 30 days to, ARI contest Manager, PO Box 14, 27043 Broni, PV Italy.

EUROPEAN SPRINT CONTEST (Spring Contest CW)

When: 18 May, 1500z - 1859z

Entrants: Any licensed station operating from Europe (DXCC definition) may enter the Sprint.

Objectives: To work as many European stations as possible.

Categories: Single operator ONLY, Only one Signal may be radiated at any one time.

Bands: 20m, 40m, 80m recommended

frequencies 14030-070, 7010-040, 3530-570, and 14220-228, 7040-090, 3680-780.

Exchange: All the following must be part of the exchange: Your callsign *plus* the other station's callsign *plus* your serial number starting 001 (RST IS NOT REQUIRED) *plus* your name or nickname. Note that initials of your name/nickname are not allowed, a name must be at least 3 letters long. BOTH callsigns MUST be repeated by BOTH stations. A valid exchange could be G0ORH de G4BUO 112 Dave. while G0ORH 112 Dave is not a valid QSO. (Both calls must be sent).

QSY Rule: If any station solicits a call (by sending CQ, QRZ etc.), he is permitted to work ONLY one station on that frequency. He must thereafter QSY at least 2kHz before he can call CQ again.

Valid QSOs: those correctly logged and confirmed QSOs. Use only ONE name during the sprint.

Scoring: One point per correct QSO, final score is total QSOs on all bands added together.

Awards: There are NO awards or prizes since this is a contest to test the individuals' skills.

Logs: Logs are required in chronological order. A separate summary sheet is also required. Logs for the Spring CW Sprint must be sent no later than 15 days after the contest to: Paulo Cortese, I2UIY, PO Box 27043 Broni PV Italy.

CQ WORLD WIDE WPX (CW) CONTEST

When: 25/26 May, 0000z-2400z.

Operate no more than 36 hours. Off periods must be at least 60 minutes long and marked in the log.

Entry classes:

Single operator multiband/single band, High power/Low power (<100 watts output) /QRP (<5 watts- output);

Multioperator single transmitter.

Multioperator multitransmitter.

Multi-singles only allowed one transmitter and band during the same time period (10 mins rule); Multi-multis only allowed one transmitted signal per band. All transmitters must be located on property limits or within 500 metres.

Exchange RST and three digit serial number beginning with 001.

Scoring: One point/QSO with station on same continent on the 20m, 15m & 10m bands and two points on the 40m 80m & 160m bands. (Exception: contacts between North American stations count two & four points per QSO, respectively). Contacts between stations on different continents count three points on the 20m, 15m & 10m bands and six points on the 40m 80m & 160m bands. Multipliers are the number of different prefixes worked and count once only. Prefixes are the letter-numeral combination that forms the first part of an amateur call-sign.

Logs: to be received no later than July 10, 96. Address To: CQ WPX contest 76 N Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801. Have Fun.

RSGB NATIONAL FIELD DAY

The General Rules, as published in the January 1996 RadCom apply. NFD is a fully portable contest. Note change to rule 4.

Notification: Each group intending to compete must send details of the intended site to: D L Hill,G4IQM, 14 The Garronese, Worth, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 7YT, to arrive no later than 6 May 1996. Details

must include the name and address of the person responsible for the entry; callsign/s to be used; national grid references and sufficient access information for an inspector to locate the site. Contest stationary will be sent on request.

When From 1500z 1 June to 1500z 2 June.

Sections: All sections are multioperator.

Open. One transmitter and one receiver (or one transceiver) plus an additional receiver. There is no restriction on the number or type of antennas but the maximum height must not exceed 20m. Power is limited to 100W from the final stage.

Restricted: One transmitter and one receiver (or one transceiver) plus an additional receiver. One antenna only which must be a single element such as a dipole, vertical, end-fed wire etc., having not more than two elevated supports and not exceeding 11m above ground at the highest point. Power is restricted to 100W output from the final stage.

Low Power: Same equipment and aerial limitations as in the restricted section. Power is further restricted to 10W DC output from the final stage.

Notes: A transceiver with a second receiver e.g. FT1000 counts as two receivers.

Stand-by equipment is allowed on site, but may not be connected to a power source when the main equipment is in use.

All stations are subject to an inspection by representatives of the HF Contests Committee. The inspector's brief will be to ensure that the rules and spirit of the contest are being observed. Should the inspector be unable to locate the site due to inadequate or incorrect information, the entry may be disallowed. In the event of a late change of site, it is the responsibility of the members of the group to make suitable arrangements for the inspector to find the new site. The inspector must be given immediate access to all parts of the site with the right to stay as long as desired, and the ability to return at any time during the contest. The inspector may also visit 24 hours before the start of the contest. The presence on site of any amplifier or modified commercial equipment capable of excess power may result in the entry being disallowed, and in the event of any such infringement being proven, all operators listed as being associated with the group in operating the station may be disbarred by the HF Contests Committee from entering any RSGB contest for 5 years.

Frequencies and Mode: CW (A1A) only in the 1.8, 3.5, 7, 14, 21, and 28 MHz bands. Contests preferred segments, as recommended by the IARU, should be used i.e. 3510-3560 and 14010-14070kHz.

Exchange: RST and serial number starting from 001.

Scoring: Each station may be worked once per band, but points must not be claimed for contacts made by a competing station with members of it's own group. Points will be scored with contacts with:-

Fixed stations in Europe (including UK) 2 points.

Fixed stations outside Europe 3 points.

Portable and mobile stations in Europe 4 points.(inc. UK).

Portable and mobile outside Europe 6 points.

Contacts on 1.8MHz and 28MHz should be scored as above and the totals multiplied by two to obtain the band score for the RSGB listing.

Address for entries: As in 'notification' above and postmarked no later than 28 June 1996. Entries on disk are encouraged, see

General rules 28.

Awards: The National Field Day Trophy to the station having the highest overall checked score, regardless of section. The Bristol trophy to the station having the highest overall checked score in the other section. The Scottish Trophy to the Scottish station having the highest overall checked score. The Gravesend Trophy to the runner-up in the section having the highest number of entries. The G6ZR Memorial Trophy to the runner-up in the other section. Certificates of merit to the stations having the three highest overall checked scores in each section. The Frank Hoosen G3YF Trophy to the station having the highest checked score on the 14MHz. Certificates of merit to the groups in each section with the highest checked scores on each band.

Check Logs: While overseas stations are not eligible to enter NFD, check logs are very welcome. A certificate will be awarded to the overseas station in each continent whose check log shows the most points contributed to competitors.

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Due to the expected increase in participation in the IOTA Contest this year, considerable help is required from CDXC members to assist in the preparation of received contest logs. For further information, please contact G3TMA, IOTA Contest Co-ordinator, or G3SJJ, Chairman, RSGB HFCC. Both are QTHR, and both may be contacted via PacketCluster. This is an important job. CDXC members are very experienced in administrative work etc.(!!), so I am sure our organisation will rise to the challenge, especially for such a worthwhile cause.

That's it for this Issue. My thanks go to RSGB & RadCom, QST, for without them much of the information would not be available. I hope that the above info is of benefit to you and though I do try and keep all info correct etc., the inevitable typo error does happen.

Lastly, if you have any input, or are planning to enter a contest that may require extra operators then let me know. I can do no more. I hope you all have a successful contesting month ahead and I look forward to perhaps hearing from you. Thanks.

GET CONTESTING!

Dave Lawley, G4BUO

During my three year stint as chairman of the RSGB HF Contests Committee my main task was to administer and promote the Society's HF contest programme. A secondary goal, and one in which I feel I was less successful, was to encourage UK participation in the major international events such as CQ WW, WPX and the ARRL DX.

Several times when looking at published results in CQ magazine or QST I have been struck by how few G entries appear. The latest tabulation, from the 1995 CQ WPX Phone contest, shows just five entries from England! In a "league table" of numbers of entries from European countries this would put us 26th, behind (among others) Greece, Slovakia, Norway and Austria and behind all of our near neighbours France, Germany, Spain, Belgium, Holland and Denmark. We in England are being put to shame by the other UK countries. In the WPX where we only mustered five entries, there were three from GM, one from GW and two from GI, more than doubling the count to 11 but only moving the UK as a whole up from 26th to 19th in the league table. Analysis was recently published in CQ Contest magazine by OH2MM derived from the results of the CQ WW contests which expressed the number of entries as a percentage of a country's amateur population. Slovenia came out top on both modes, and LA, OH, LY, SM and OK also figured highly. On phone GI was 17th, GW 27th, GM 31st and G way

down in 49th place.

As a very interesting contrast, however, some statistics from the K1KI multi-multi log breakdown from the ARRL DX CW contest shows their number of contacts with G (339) was beaten only by the number with DL (606). Below us were I 280, OK 212, F 197, with S5 down at 83, OH 61, LY 42 and LA not featuring at all. So it seems that Gs may be coming on in reasonable numbers to make some contacts but don't get serious enough to send in an entry. As a contest organiser for RSGB I know that we like to receive entries because it is the only real means we have of gauging the success of a contest. The argument "I won't send in an entry because I know I won't win" really won't do because if everyone thought that way the event would only have a handful of logs submitted.

I admit that I have focused on quantity rather than quality and there is no doubt that in the UK we have some world-class competitors but overall, what can be the reasons for the low proportion of entries from the UK in the major international contests? Perhaps Gs do not feel they can devote 24 or 48 hours to participation in a major contest. Why this does not also deter other Europeans is not clear except that we do have the longest working hours of any country and our government seems determined to keep it that way. Is the pace of life here faster than in other countries? Maybe so. Another factor which I am sure inhibits contest participation is the EMC and planning situation. The two are theoretically not linked, but both can work together to prevent the budding contester from building and operating a competitive station, and for most people who live in towns it is an uphill struggle. DXers have it easier as they may only appear briefly to chase new ones, but there is nothing more guaranteed to flush out neighbourhood TVI problems than a 24 hour contest, especially on phone. Then when the contester wants to erect a tower it turns out that local objections have more to do with TVI than planning considerations but the effect is the same - no tower.

Maybe the English just aren't competitive enough, a theory supported by examination of recent cricket results. Or perhaps competition in the major events is just too daunting. At the bottom of the cycle most activity is concentrated on 20m and you have to be loud to find and retain a frequency. I get upset and annoyed when some LID tries to wrestle me off my run frequency. I have built up experience in countermeasures, whereas the newcomer to contesting may be put off for life by the frequency battles which are the more or less inevitable consequence of being on 20m. Of course things are a little more civilised on CW than phone, but it is still hard work. Take my word for it, things are a lot better on 15 and 10m. There is also the mistake of thinking that the only way to contest is by calling CQ. This feeling may be especially prevalent in those who started out operating VHF contests. I firmly believe that a new contester would benefit from never calling CQ, but instead work to develop search-and-pounce techniques. For the "little pistol" it is likely that a better rate can be had calling people, and in most of the major contests where multipliers form part of the score, the best way of building a good score is to scan the bands methodically and pick up those precious multipliers. If you can find them before the packet hordes descend, so much the better. I love to operate in almost all contests but if I only have limited time to spend, I like to practice my search-and-pounce technique. Just like any competitive endeavour, practice pays off. Another important aspect of search-and-pounce is that if you come across a proficient contester CQing, you can stop to listen to his technique and learn how a pileup should be handled.

The next major international contest is WPX CW, at the end of May just a week before Field Day. It's a good event for newcomers as the contact rate is not quite as fast and

furious as the CQ WW or ARRL events, but there is plenty to work. Single-operator entries are limited to 36 out of 48 hours but if you can only operate for a few hours it is still well worth putting in an entry. The WPX contest organisers in conjunction with CQ Contest magazine have added three new entry categories for single ops this year, in an attempt to give more people something to aim at. The Band Restricted category is aimed at novices although the UK novice licence is so restricted that it is unlikely to be of any use here. The Rookie category is for people licensed three year or less and is an excellent chance for a new G0 to get a certificate, and finally there is the TS (Tribander and Single element) category. Unfortunately here in the UK, a station with a single tribander for HF and single-element wire antennas for LF is a set-up many can only dream about, but the top single ops in the States have progressed to multiple stacked monobanders so this new category, while aimed at Mr Joe Average US Ham, fits most of our stations pretty well.

Proportionally, there were a few more G entries in the multi-op section of WPX phone and I always feel that if several people who want to try contesting can get together, they may be more able to break free of TVI and aerial constraints, share their gear and learn how to contest together. They may also be able to find an experienced contester to join the team and act as an "Elmer". In fact most established contesters are very willing to share information and encourage newcomers to join our ranks. We don't want to be left with no-one to work!

To those reading this article who already know about contesting, this is a plea to send in your logs. It's getting easier all the time. I made about 200 QSOs in WPX phone this year and have already emailed my log to the contest director N8BJQ. These days most adjudicators accept logs on diskette, or packet, or via the Internet, or all three. On the basis of just five logs in WPX we can count ourselves fortunate to have been invited to send a team to WRTC this year.

Dave G4BUO

RSGB HF CONTESTS

UK PacketCluster Network

The HF RSGB Contests Committee held its all-day meeting last Saturday (April 13th) at G3OZF's QTH. Our thanks to Don for hosting it and to his wife Chris who provided excellent refreshments such that after an extended lunch break, it was difficult to re-start the meeting! The following is a summary of our discussions:

IOTA Contest

Modifications to the front and tail-end administrative activities were suggested and taken away for discussion with HQ. These should relieve the Committee of some onerous work and enable us to meet the projected increase in entries over the next few years. More info will be released when agreement with relevant personnel at HQ has been reached. No modifications to the rules appear necessary at this stage.

Commonwealth Contest

A package designed raise the profile of this event was agreed:

- Increased publicity in overseas Commonwealth countries
- A more detailed report in RadCom to allow participants to formulate an operating strategy e.g. band openings, moving stations, antennas.
- Individual band listing to be replaced by a 12 hour section. This will encourage those of us who use the event as an activity session rather than a contest, to stay on the bands longer and send in an entry! (There must be some 100 UK stations and a similar amount in VE in this category).

We rejected inter-UK working.

National Field Day

After intense discussion, we could not find a consensus of agreement that would satisfy the various strong opinions of some participants. We decided to survey current groups on four options:

- Make the Open section OPEN
- Delete the Open section, leaving QRP and Restricted
- Increase QRP power limit from 5W to 10W
- Introduce a "Club" section for basic transceiver and no computer logging.

Your "agree" or "disagree" opinion is welcomed, before 10 June.

General

On an overview, we have more events than any other national society , also the mode mix is biased heavily in favour of CW. We therefore took the decision to scrap the Summer 1.8MHz CW contest and offer the two QRP events t o the G-QRP Club or PW etc. If there is no take-up, the two events will be merged into one.

We had hoped to have a viable computerised log checking system in operation by now. Unfortunately, the program needs a maths co-processor or Pentium and only two out of 18 possible adjudicators have this facility. This is causing a major problem, as is the fact that the program is only really designed to check the Field Day and AFS events. We are trying to address the problem.

Chris Burbanks G3SJJ

Chairman HF Contests Committee

SOLAR SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY/MARCH 1996

Jim Smith, G0OFE

Average solar flux in February/March 1996 was the lowest yet seen since the last solar maximum in 1989. The average monthly value of solar flux was 71.5 in February and 70.6 in March - typical of values seen around solar minimum. The highest daily flux was 76 on 24th February, and the lowest 68 on 8th February, and 7th & 9th March. The running 27-day average of solar flux, i.e. over one solar rotation as seen from Earth, began the period at 74 units, but quickly fell to 71 units by the end of February, and remained close to that value throughout March.

The Annual smoothed solar flux at the end of March (and centred on the end of September 1995) was 74.2 units. During most recent minima this value has been reached about 6-9 months before the solar minimum was reached. This points to the minimum being reached during the 2nd quarter of 1996, i.e. now! If this proves to be the case, then we will probably start to see mean solar activity begin to rise at the turn of the year - but it will need several months of data after the minimum before we can say for certain that Cycle 23 has begun. All I can say is - watch this space!

On the geomagnetic front - there has been a rather unwelcome increase in magnetic activity. The rolling 27-day average a-index rose from a value of 6 units at the end of Jan, to 10 by the end of March, with 2 days with the a-index approaching 30 (minor storm). There are signs, however, at the time of typing this (9th April) that geomagnetic activity is quietening down again.

FOR SALE

Heatherlite Explorer Linear Amp. One careful owner(!) 1KW+ out. £700. Buyer collects - cos it aint harf evy! Bob Whelan, 01223 263137, G3PJT.

HINSON TIPS ON CW OPERATING TECHNIQUES

Gary Hinson, G4IFB

Here're some Hinson Tips for efficient, courteous, professional-grade and fun CW I've picked up from ragchews, pile-ups and contests, but most of all by listening to the best ops:

- when calling a DX station operating on split, hit the "TF-set" button and zero-beat your TX with or near successful callers (listen out for those sending reports);

- if a DX station is not operating split, don't call exactly on his frequency but shift a bit HF or LF to stand out from the crowd;

- in fluent/rapid QSOs with experienced ops, drop unnecessary words, procedural signals and punctuation such as IS, DE, AR, hyphen, comma, BK, KN etc., just leave longer gaps;

- after establishing contact for a standard QSO, you don't need to repeat both calls at the start and end of every single over (but you should ALWAYS send your own call once an over);

- keep your CQs and overs fairly short and if you don't operate on full break-in, at least let the VOX/PTT drop out every so often to give the other chap a chance to butt in;

- slow down for slow callers either by turning back the speed knob or by simply leaving longer gaps between characters, especially for the non-standard bits of your overs (e.g. "NAME G A R Y");

- if you want to speed up but don't know if the other guy can copy, try sending your callsign etc. a bit faster at the end of an over - if he's happy, he will respond in kind;

- don't repeat everything over and over, just send the important bits once or twice (e.g. "RST 569 569") unless copy is marginal - you shouldn't really need any repeats for solid two-way 'Q5' QSOs;

- ALWAYS confirm a partial callsign once you [think you] have copied it correctly, preferably by repeating the complete callsign or if you are in a real rush fill-in the gap (repeat just the missing prefix or suffix);

- routinely send nine as "N" and zero as "T" unless it's clear the other guy is really inexperienced, but avoid using "E" for five - it's too easily lost in the noise or confusion;

- procedural signals like AR SK KN etc. should each be sent as a continuous stream of bits NOT separate letters [note: CQ is NOT continuous!];

- exchange some personal details - age, profession, family or whatever - not just the rubber-stamp name, QTH, rig and WX. Say what else you can hear on the band or DX you've worked recently Comment on his signal compared to his contemporaries, and ask how your signal rates Is he zero-beat and does his signal chirp, click or drift? Tell him about a forthcoming contest Oh and mention CDXC!

73 GaryG4IFB@ GB7DXD
Gary.Hinson@natpower.co.uk

MORSE TEST ANNIVERSARY

On the 10th May 1986 the RSGB commenced Morse Tests on behalf of the Radiocommunications Agency. The occasion was more than just the appointment of a new agency by the DTI; for the very first time in the United Kingdom radio amateurs were testing fellow amateurs.

Ten years later the Morse Test Service is still manned by 300 volunteers, organised in 70 county teams, who carry out in excess of 1000 Morse test annually for both the full 12 wpm and Novice 5 wpm class A licence requirements.

To commemorate this important milestone, the Society proposes to award a souvenir Morse Test

Anniversary certificate to any amateur who makes contact with 10 Special Event stations active using CW during the anniversary weekend of 11-12th May 1996.

These stations will be operated by the county Morse testing teams, and for ease of identification the R.A. have approved the use of the GB10 prefix, followed by the RSGB County code suffix. For example, the London team will use GB10LDN and Norfolk GB10NOR. Additional stations will also be active from RSGB HQ (GB10RS), The Chief Morse Examiner (GB10CW), Deputy Chief Morse Examiner (GB10QSO) and the Strathclyde Morse test team will use the Club Call GM0RSE.

In order to encourage newcomers to apply for the award, each team will spend some time working QRS in the Novice CW section of the 80 metre band.

The cost of the certificate is £2, $5, or 6 IRCs and Log Extracts should be sent to the Chief Morse Examiner, Roy Clayton G4SSH, 9 Green island, Irton, Scarborough, North Yorkshire YO12 4RN. QSL cards are not required to claim the award, which is also available to listeners.

MORSE TEST SERVICE - 10TH ANNIVERSARY - SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS MAY 11-12th 1996

GB10CW	Chief Morse Examiner
GB10QSO	Deputy Chief Morse Examiner
GB10RS	RSGB HQ (Hertfordshire)
GB10ATM	Co Antrim
GB10ARM	Co Armagh
GB10BFD	Bedfordshire
GB10BRK	Berkshire
GB10CNL	Cornwall (Poldhu)
GB10CBA	Cumbria
GB10DYS	Derbyshire
GB10DGL	Dumfries & Galloway
GB10HPH	Hampshire
GB10LNH	Lancashire
GB10LEC	Leicestershire
GB10LCN	Lincolnshire
GB10LDN	London
GB10NHM	Northampton
GB10NLD	Northumberland
GB10NOR	Norfolk
GB10SPE	Shropshire
GB10SFD	Staffordshire
GB10SFK	Suffolk
GB10SXW	Sussex West
GB10SRY	Surrey
GB10TYS	Tayside
GB10TWR	Tyne & Wear
GB10YSE	Yorkshire East
GB10YSN	Yorkshire North
GB10WMD	West Midlands
ZC4CYP	Cyprus (awaiting confirmation)
GM0RSE	Strathclyde Morse Test team (Club Call)

IOTA SPOTS

Neville Cheadle, G3NUG

This is a suggestion for those Members who put out cluster spots for IOTA operations. If the word 'IOTA' is shown in the comments field with the reference number (e.g. IOTA EU-063 rather than EU-063) then access to past IOTA spots is facilitated. Entering SH/DX/10 'IOTA' will bring up the latest 10 IOTA spots. I have this line built into my own log-on message.

SWL NEWS
BOB TREACHER, BRS32525

Listener interest in the last couple of months centred on the WPX SSB Contest and some very good DX conditions on 1.8MHz. Unfortunately, conditions on HF remained poor, with little of interest having been heard on 18MHz and nothing at all reported on either 24MHz or 28MHz. CDXC also has another SWL member, Mick Toms, BRS31976.

In view of the success of the October SWL Challenge, I decided, at very short notice, to organise a Challenge to run concurrently with the SSB leg of the WPX Contest. Rules were sent with the October Challenge Results Booklet and Jean-Jacques Yerganian ONL-383, the well known Belgian SWL, was able to get them in to several DX Bulletins in Europe. I shall be delighted if 30 logs are received. At the time of writing, (15th April) 18 had already been received, including 3 from licensed operators operating as SWLs for the weekend! For those whose stations are "not quite competitive enough", my Challenges offer the ideal way to take part in two fascinating contest weekends. I hope that a few more licensed colleagues will enter the October Challenge - rules are available from me in return for an SASE.

Activity in WPX was high, but the amount of real DX on offer seemed limited. Conditions played a part, but the strength of some of the Europeans on the low bands had to be heard to be believed. As a result, some DX on adjacent channels was swamped. Several very large scores have been received, including one from an SWL who logged 1,600 stations in 18 hours. My own low bands entry accounted for 700+ stations in only 7 hours listening! Results will appear through the usual channels during the summer.

Our new member, Mick Toms, BRS31976, has been a keen SWL for a number of years and is finding a little more time for SWLing in 96. He commented on my thoughts last time about activity on 1.8MHz. He rightly says that much of the fresh emphasis is as a result of much greater interest and greater availability. He remembers his great astonishment when W1BB got the first 160m DXCC. Many of the countries he worked were special skeds and involved a lot of arm twisting to get the authorities to allow special operations. It took Mick 20 years to log 50 countries - in this year's CQ160, it took 20 hours! Mick now has 96 countries heard on the band. Elsewhere, he has 183 on 3.5MHz; 101 on 7MHz; 168 on 14MHz; and 150 on both 21 and 28MHz. All Time, he has heard 237 countries. He accepts his HF scores are on the low side, but he has always preferred LF and VHF (He has over 50 countries heard on 144MHz, and 80+ on 50MHz).

Finally, let me turn to some exceptional conditions on 1.8MHz. Both the CQ160 Contest and the ARRL DX Contest provided some good DX and some new countries for the deserving! During these two weekends, I am aware of the following SSB DX heard in G-land - UA9XFY, A92BE, 5N0MVE, EA8PP, plenty of Stateside and Canada, TI4CF, TG9NX, YS1X, 5B4MF, EX8M, TT8BP, UA0ACG, YV2IF, XE1RCS, 6Y5XX, V25AS, C6AGN, VP5X, P40V, FS5PL, 8P9Z, FM5DN, WP2AHW, ZL1HY and VP2E. Outside of these contests, SSB has also provided TJ1GB, KP4AAQ, UN0AA, C56DX, J56DY, 3V8BB, OD5NJ and 9G1MR. So, add on 50+ Europeans and it can be seen that 100 SSB countries heard on the band in 1996 is a distinct possibility. Those who monitor the CW portion of the band, too, may already be close to, or into, three figures!

INTERNET UPDATE

Don Field, G3XTT

Way way back in the September '94 issue of the CDXC NewsLetter (Issue 91) I wrote a piece about the use of the Internet for getting hold of amateur radio information. I say way, way back, because so much has happened since then that late-94 is almost the dark ages. In that article I focused exclusively on the various "Reflectors" which use the Internet mail protocols to allow users to post messages and to read messages which have posted by others. I am delighted to say that the various Reflectors I mentioned then are still going strong, and several others have joined them (such as the Topband Reflector, run and moderated by AA6TT).

World Wide Web

But the big change of the past 12 months or so has been the explosion in the use of the World Wide Web (WWW). In one sense, WWW is just another application running on the Internet. But in another sense it is *the* application which has led to exponential growth in Internet use. Web pages are based on Hypertext Mark-up Language (html). If you are already a WWW user you will have noticed that the URL, or Universal Resource Locator, of web pages starts http - hypertext transmission protocol, which is the protocol which allows transmission of html documents. The html format allows multimedia documents (text, graphics, video, audio) but, crucially, also allows hypertext links. This means that you can click on a hypertext link in a document (which usually shows up as a button or a highlighted piece of text) and be taken to another page. This page may be on a different computer in a different country, but your WWW browser software will take you there without you even realising. Incidentally, the http protocol is now supported by many word processors. For example, you can download form the Microsoft site on the WWW an add-on for Word for Windows which allows you to read, edit and create html documents.

QST carried a useful series of articles last year about the Internet, and I have a photocopy of a page from the Japanese CQ Ham Radio with probably a couple of hundred sites of amateur radio interest listed. RadCom seems to be a bit behind the times in its coverage of the subject.

WWW Access

Getting connected to the WWW is becoming easier by the day. There are a number of companies which will sell you access, and will usually provide you with the software you need for your PC (normally Windows-based). The popular browsers are Mosaic and Netscape - you may have read that Netscape (the company) was floated recently on the US stock exchange and made its founders multimillionaires overnight. I access WWW via Compuserve, which costs me $9.95 a month (plus local telephone charges for the time I am connected). Other popular service providers are Demon and Pipex, and it would be remiss of me not to mention the fact that my own company, BT, has just launched a public Internet service. All of these services allow you to use the full range of Internet applications (mail, Telnet remote log-on, file transfer protocol - FTP, etc.), and some like Compuserve also give you access to other services and databases of their own (such as home shopping, yet to really take off over WWW itself due to problems with data security and verification).

So, once you are connected to the WWW, where to start? The number of web sites of amateur radio interest is growing by the day, with literally hundreds, if not thousands, already in existence. Many clubs, especially in the US, have their own "Home Page" from which you can access other pages of information related to that club. Quite a few of the suppliers also have Home Pages. And a number of individual amateurs have set up

Home Pages. In fact, several of the Internet service providers such as Compuserve and American Online offer subscribers enough storage space to create a Home Page of their own (and provide the software to make this very easy - on Compuserve a simple Home Page can be created in about 30 minutes). Lots of radio amateurs have already taken advantage of this facility.

Home Pages

I've mentioned Home Pages several times. The phrase is a common one in WWW parlance, and means just that. It's the first page you come to when you "point" your browser at a particular organisation. You can guess at the URL of many home pages as they follow a simple format - BT, for example, is at *http://www.bt.co.uk* meaning, of course, hypertext protocol on WWW, company name, co = commercial (as against mil = military, edu = educational, etc.), and country id. (the default on Internet is always the USA). From a Home Page you can go deeper into the information provided by that organisation or individual, but there will often be hypertext links to other Home Pages, or indeed to specific pages at others sites.

What this means for amateur radio purposes is, that by knowing the URLs of a few key sites, you can use them as a starting point and, from them, navigate your way around many more amateur radio sites. Let me start you with two of the best. In the UK, the most comprehensive site, both for its own information and for its links to other sites, is that run by Geoff Brown GJ4ICD. Its URL is *http://user.itl.net/~equinox/*

In the US, the best site in my opinion is that run by Scott Nealy KA9FOX. Its URL is *http://www.infoanalytic.com/ka9fox/* Scott has collected vast amounts of information, from contest rules and results to a compendium of the postings on several of the Internet Reflectors. You can listen to recordings of European topband signals, as heard by N6TR in Oregon. And Scott has also put in links to almost every other useful amateur radio site you could think of.

With these two sites alone, you should be able to find your way to any others you want. However, at the end of this article I have listed some of my personal favourites. Let me, though, mention a couple of others which will be of particular interest to CDXC members. One is the Web Cluster run by OH2BUA. This is updated throughout the day with spots from PacketClusters around the world. Its URL is *http://www.clinet.fi/~jukka/* The other is the solar information available at *http://solar.uleth.ca/solar* This includes a variety of contoured maps, updated every hour, of MUF, critical frequency, etc.

Facilities

There are some particularly clever facilities provided by some of these sites. For example, you can click to download software (EI5DI's site allows you to download his Super Duper logging program, for example), or look up callbook addresses (a site at the University of Little Rock gives you interactive access to the FCC's own database of US licensee - you can't get much closer to source than that, if you want the address of a US amateur), or even gateway through to an overseas PacketCluster. One site (*http://www.chilton.com/scripts/radio/r8-receiver*) connects you to a Drake R8 receiver in Reston, Virginia, which you can control remotely, allowing you to listen to what the bands sound like at a remote location. Sites often appear specifically to support a DXpedition, as happened with the XR0Y effort last year. A Home Page already exists for the Heard Island operation, and will be continually updated as the expedition draws closer.

The RSGB has an experimental Home Page (URL *http://www.rsgb.org/rsgb/*), which hopefully will go from strength to strength, perhaps with coverage of the IOTA programme. I certainly look forward to the day when CDXC does too.

World Wide Web, useful home pages

ARRL *http://www.arrl.org/*
BARTG *http://cs.nott.ac.uk/~ibx/bartg/*
Central Arizona DX Association
http://www.getnet.com/~davidh/cadxa.html
Pitcairn Islands
http://wavefront.wavefront.com/~pjlareau/pitc1.html
EI5DI (download Super Duper, info. on latest releases, etc.) *http://www.iol.ie/~okanep/*
Frankford Radio Club http://www.mordor.com/frc/
GJ4ICD *http://user.itl.net/~equinox/*
HRT Magazine *http://www.tcp.co.uk/~slorek/*
KA9FOX (one of the best)
http://www.infoanalytic.com/ka9fox/
Lowe Electonics
http://www.demon.co.uk/lowe/index.html
Lowband Monitor
http://www.4w.com/ham/lowband
Nevada http://www.ee.port.ac.uk/~arrow
OH2KI (CQWW contest info.)
http://mpoli.fi/~leif/oh2ki.html
QRZ (callbook info.)
http://www.qrz.com/cgi-bin/webcall
PI4CC
http://www.euronet.nl/users/pb0aiu/homepage.html
Solar & propagation info *http://solar.uleth.ca/solar*
UK callbook
http://www.man.ac.uk/cgi-bin/callbook
US Call Lookup Server updated daily with FCC info. (at University of Arkansas, Little Rock)
http://www.ualr.edu/doc/hamualr/callsign.html
USAF auroral oval display
http://www.sel.noaa.gov/radio/radio.html
VE7TCP *http://ve7tcp.ampr.org/*
WB2K future contest expeditions registry
http://www.mordor.com/wb2k
425 DX Bulletin (Italy, good for IOTA info.)
http://promet12.cineca.it/htdx/index.html
Heard Island
http://www.ccnet.com/~cordell/hi/scoping
R8 rx
http://www.chilton.com/scripts/radio/r8-receiver
JY *http://www.en.com/users/k8yse/jy47x*
CQ Contest mag
http://www.access.digex.net/~cqmag/cqtest.html
NCJ *http://www.waterw.com/~ncj/*
OPDX Bulletin archive
http://cpcug.org/user/wfeidt/ohpadx/index.html
PI4COM http://www.euronet.nl/users/norf/pi4com
WRTC official web site
http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/n6ip
Yaesu http: *//www.yaesu.com/*
59(9) DX Report
http://members.aol.com/the599rpt/dx.html

ANNUAL REVIEW MEETING & EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

The 1996 Annual Review Meeting will be held on Saturday July 6th at G3NUG's QTH. The ARM is a short business meeting, at which the Committee for 1996/97 will be elected, a review of 1995/96 activities takes place, and members are able to raise items for discussion and action by the new Committee. All nominations for the new Committee, and items for discussion should be sent to the Secretary, Dave, G0HXN, by June 30th. All Committee posts are up for re-election. There will also be a brief Extraordinary General Meeting at which the revised constitution will be proposed for acceptance.

This is your chance to influence and contribute to CDXC's direction. Do come, and bring the family!

This year, as last year, the ARM is to be combined with a social function. Neville, G3NUG, and XYL Trish are kindly offering to host CDXC members plus XYLs/partners and their families. There will be a barbecue party, and for those wishing a break from radio, Trish and Neville have organised swimming, tennis and croquet, so bring appropriate gear! Trish and Neville have also very generously offered to provide the food. Would guests please bring their own drinks - soft drinks, beer or wine. No spirits please.

Timetable: ARM start at 12.00 sharp, to finish by 13.00 sharp, with BBQ etc. to follow. Please arrive in good time so that the business aspects of the day can be dealt with promptly.

Please advise Dave, G0HXN if you are planning to attend, and let him know numbers.

The July NewsLetter will be available at the ARM for attendees. NewsLetters for those not attending will be mailed week commencing July 8th.

DIRECTIONS to G3NUG QTH

Venue for ARM

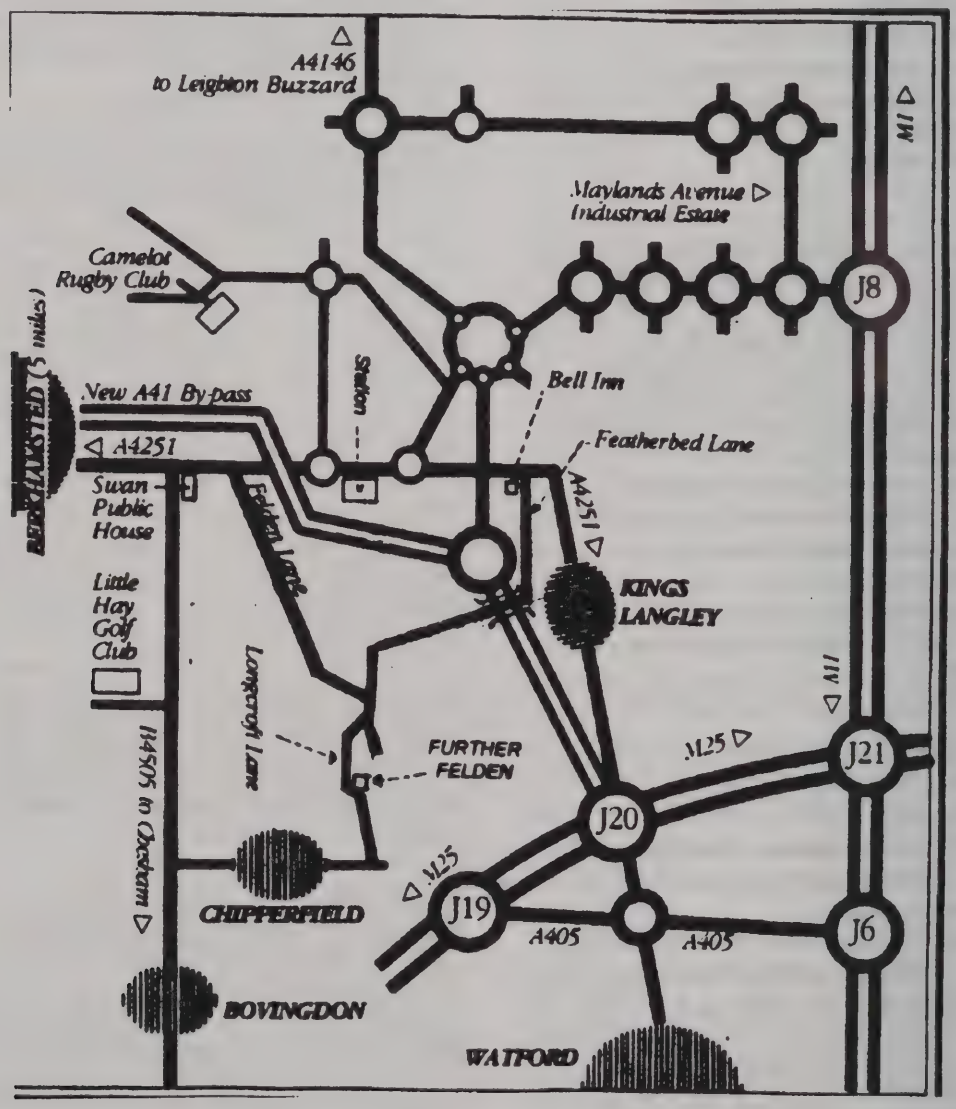
Trish and Neville Cheadle. Address: Further Felden, Longcroft Lane, Felden, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP3 0BN. Tel 01442 62929

Directions

The map below, which is not to scale, shows the directions to Further Felden from junction 8 of the M1 and from Junction 20 of the M25.

From junction 8 of the M1 follow the road to the centre of Hemel Hempstead (the magic roundabout). Turn *left* and take the second exit. At the traffic lights filter left (A4251). After about 400 yards turn right immediately after the Bell Inn up Featherbed Lane. After about one mile you reach a small green in the middle of Felden Village. Take the second right signposted Longcroft. Further Felden is the fourth house on the left.

From junction 20 of the M25 take the new A41 by-pass to Hemel Hempstead. Take Hemel Hempstead exit and at traffic lights filter right (A4215). After about 400 yards turn right immediately after the Bell Inn up Featherbed Lane. After about one mile you reach a small green in the middle of Felden Village. Take the second right signposted Longcroft. Further Felden is the fourth house on the left.



HEARD ISLAND, 1997

Background

A multi-disciplinary, multi-national expedition to Heard Island, in the Southern Indian Ocean, is being planned for the 1996-97 south polar research season. The expedition will involve two main activities:

- Amateur radio operations and radio science
- Natural science, specifically the study of cryptofauna.

The expedition, which has a budget of $320k, will be carried out during a five week period in January/February 1997. The team will depart Reunion Island aboard the brand new 120 metre supply vessel, *Marion Dufresne*, on January 3rd and will return on February 5th. Approximately two weeks will be spent on Heard Island, with brief visits to Crozet and Kerguelen Islands, from where brief operations may also take place.

A team of twenty persons has been assembled for the primary radio and biological activities. Currently, collaboration with other scientific groups with interest in Heard Island is being sought.

The expedition is being planned by Cordell Expeditions, a non-profit oceanic research group based in Walnut Creek, California. The group has twenty years' experience in exploration and documentation of remote sites. The work of the group led to the designation of a U.S. National Marine Sanctuary, the publication of several books, and a continuing series of expeditions to environmentally sensitive sites world-0wide.

The expedition will be financed by contributions from participants, industrial partners, scientific, and government organisations. Corporate support is being sought from the radio, computer, communications, and travel industries. Scientific support is being sought from research and governmental organisations interested in acquiring specimens, conducting experiments, or obtaining data.

This expedition will be conducted in full compliance with the laws and policies of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Heard Island

Heard Island lies in the southern Indian Ocean at 53°05'S - 73°30'E. It has an area of 368km^2. Its principal feature is the intermittently active volcano Big Ben, peaking at 2745m above sea level. Toward the Northwest is Lurens Peninsula, which is a subsidiary volcano cone 725m above sea level. The remaining areas are mainly narrow coastal flats at the western and eastern ends. The margin is characterised by coastal ice cliffs and exposed high-energy rocky beaches. Heard Island is biologically pristine: there is no record of any human-introduced species.

Here's what the Australian Antarctic Division has to say about Heard Island:

"*The combination of features-dramatic glaciated landscapes, abundant wild life, geological history, and harsh weather conditions and absence of any human introduction of non-indigenous species makes this region of outstanding natural values and can be readily recognised to have the inspiration qualities of a pristine wilderness*"

Geology

Heard Island sits on a limestone accumulation on the Kerguelen Plateau, dating to the middle Eocene to early Oligocene. The two main volcanic centres (Big Ben and Mount Dixon) produce two extremely different types of lava. Big Ben is a conical volcano 20km diameter at its base.

It emits steam continuously, and the summit is warm to the touch. Morphologically, it is dominated by an avalanche amphitheatre, Much of the volcano has slumped to the south-west, and the resultant cavity has been filled by later activity. Big Ben has been climbed twice, in 1965 and in 1983.

There is a variety of lava fields and lava ash deposits. There are alluvial features such as melt streams and karst features in limestone areas. Classic volcanic features include pahoehoe lava flows, spatter cones, ash cones, and lava tubes. In combination with glacial retreat, there are terminal lakes an moraines. Peat associated with vegetation occurs on the poorly drained low lying coastal areas.

Ownership

Heard Island is one element in a larger territory vested in the Commonwealth of Australia. The territory includes Heard Island, the McDonald Islands, and various offshore rocks and shoals, and the territorial sea, in total 6364km^2.

Heard Island was used by sealers from the mid 19th Century until 1929. In 1947 the first Australian National Antarctic research Expedition (ANARE) set up a research station at Atlas Cove, and undertook the first detailed scientific survey of the island. he station closed in 1955 and is now in ruins. Only two visits by small tourist parties have been made up to 1995. Considerable parts of Heard Island have not yet been visited by humans.

Meteorology

Meteorological conditions on Heard Island are highly variable. Temperatures during the Austral summer are about 5° C (41° F). The winds at Atlas Cove are predominantly westerly, with a mean speed of 26 kph. December is the least windy month. Snowfalls occur year round, with the least (about 10cm/month) occurring during the Austral summer. The average rainfall at Atlas Cove is 135cm. The sun shines an average of about two hours per day in January.

Glacial ice covers more than 80% of Heard Island. These glaciers descend from Big Ben; they have steep surface slopes, are fast-flowing, and shallow. Movement in the centre is typical about 250m/year. Average particle residence time in the glaciers is about 1090 years. Significant retreat of most glaciers has occurred in the last decade.

Wild Life

Eleven vascular plants, most subAntarctic species are known from heard Island. The major plant communities are tussock grassland, meadow, herbfield, pool complex, cushion carpet, and fellfield. So far, 42 species of mosses, 20 liverwort species, and more than 40 lichens have been identified. Ferns and terrestrial and freshwater algae are present, but have not been documented.

Seven species of seals occur at Heard Island, of which the southern elephant seal is by far the most abundant. Most of the seals reside on the eastern side of the island. twenty-four species of birds have been recorded, of which 19 are known to breed there. The avian fauna include penguins, skuas, sheathbills, albatross, petrels, and the Heard Island cormorant (which is endemic). As of April 1995, the number of invertebrates known was 128, some of which are endemic. Some of the insects show clear evolutionary morphological modification consistent with the presumed isolation.

The marine biology is very poorly known, due to the difficult conditions for conducting research. A large brown alga forms large forests. The sub-littoral fauna is apparently of low diversity. The fish fauna is dominated by the Antarctic cods and icefish. Only nine species have been recorded from shallow waters.

Operators

(More *wild* life!)

The complete team of twenty operators, representing nine countries, is:

EA8AFJ	G0LMX (*'DXC' member*),
HB9AHL	JH4RHF
KA6W	K0IR
K4UEE	K9AJ
KK6EK	N6EK
NP4IW	ON6TT
PA3DUU	RA3DUU
VK2TQM	W6OTC
W8FMG	WA0PUJ
WA3YVN	9V1YC

Operation is expected to commence on 12th January, and to end on 28th January.

WEB PAGES

The DXpedition has set up an Internet Web page *http://www.ccnet.com/~cordell*. Use this to obtain latest information on the DXpedition's development.

SABLE ISLAND DXPEDITION

Announcing the SABLE ISLAND DXpedition, CY0AA

This is to inform the HF/VHF/DX community that a group of three amateur radio operators will activate Sable Island in late June '96 as CY0AA. (*Ed: 18th June-2nd July*)

The project has been in the works for the past year and we are committed to seeing it come to pass. Three stations will be set up, with one operational 90% of the time on VHF.

We will be QRV from 2m to 160m, with special attention paid to 6m as well as 30m to 10m, depending on propagation. All modes will be available for contacts.

We already have the licence in hand and all the required approvals, transportation arrangements, etc., but we're lacking in funds. Our small group is requesting the help of the DX community to help pull off this DXpedition. WHY? you might ask?

Three guys on an island 125 miles off Nova Scotia.....How much could it be? Here's the initial breakdown:

Flight, by special charter (only plane allowed on Sable) for 1,070 lbs of stuff (people incl.) $2,500 x 2 = $5,000.

"Shared" flight with one of the scientific groups travelling to (this is for additional gear, not taken on passenger flight) Sable (this is a maybe, not a sure thing) $1,000 x 2 = $2,000

15 days living expenses for VE9AA $90.00/day/per op. + taxes = $1,350

7-8 days Living expenses for W9OEH and WA8JOC $90.00/day/per op. + taxes X # of days on island $1,260

Labour, and transportation to base camp $72

Flight for two USA ops to Nova Scotia $1200 x 2 = $2400.

Return postage for donated-on loan equipment $1,000

Misc. for QSLs, coax, food, fuel, etc.$1,000 + 20 % taxes on certain items.

Electricity at 58cents/hr $350

Runway inspection fee (smoothing out sandhills, bumps, etch, as they have no dedicated runway per se) (times 2, plus shared 2) $600

Total estimated cost:$13,700

We want to do this for all needing Sable on a new band or mode!! Can you help? Ops: ve9aa-mike w9oeh-wayne wa8joc-Ken

For more information or to contribute to the DXpedition: Mike Smith 131 Smith Road Geary, New Brunswick Canada E2V 2G3 email: *wynder@brunswickmicro.nb.ca* phone (506) 357-1900

Thanks, Mike

'BOB THE FISH ...', DOWN IN STINGRAY CITY.

Bob Whelan, G3PJT

I had a great time in the Commonwealth Contest this year operating as ZF1JT. Here are some notes on the trip.

So many US ham visitors go to ZF that the latest licensing info was actually available in the magazine which is given to every visitor to the Caymans. My licence was obtained through the good offices of Andrew, ZF1EJ, but you can do it yourself through the General Post Office in Georgetown. However note that customs treatment may vary as Barry, N0KV/ZF2KV, visiting at the same time as me, had to leave a deposit on his rig at the airport. I think this may have been because he had not got all of the documentation in advance as I had. I had no such problems. ZF1 is for Caymanians and Commonwealth and ZF2 is for the others.

I took the IC 735, and used the antennas at ZF1EJ. These are also the facilities of the Cayman club and comprise, a TH7 at 100', complete with a red light on top, a 80m rotary dipole at 60', a PRO57 at 50' stuck NE, a 402CD at 40' and a 160m inverted vee. Although these were all cut for the SSB section of the bands I had no problem with SWR. A 12 volt 50A PSU was made available for my use. I took a laptop and keyer and ran SDC, the Commonwealth version of Super Duper. No equipment problems. I took a DSP 9+ but I am not sure it added much, too steep skirts, noise suppression moderate.

The carry on weight was about 33 lbs, of which IC735 - 12, computer - 7, keyer - 2, misc leads - 2 and the bag - 6.

Propagation was about typical for this stage of the sunspot cycle. No Qs were made on 10m. Not a single signal heard, apart from pirate CB. 15m opened early to AF/EU/NA etc. but only with 'searchlight' propagation, necessitating many band visits. 20 and 40 were easily the most important. 20 opened about 1 hour after the contest started and then, apart from a few breaks, was open somewhere for most of the time. 40 was very similar, 80 was very noisy.

The main problem was atmospheric noise, unbelievable crashes and bangs. I thought the RX was going to give up sometimes. I had a tropical storm after about 6 hours which forced me to close down later.

My notes say, '1730z sky turned black. 1935z raining heavily and flashes lighting up the horizon. Noise level S9+ on 80/40/20'. Interestingly enough the PRO57 was a lot quieter than the TH7.

Calls from non-contest stations were a pest. Top of the pest list this year were the DLs. But as always the operating manners are very good in this contest. Go back to a station with his call wrong and everyone waits, and the odd comments and greetings are always welcome and can even lead to more bonus points.

So who were the big signals?: G4BUO and G0IVZ, G3HCT (40/20) VE3EJ, VE3VHB, VK4EMM, VK2BJ, and VK4WIA. GB5CC was not a big signal, come on guys we can do better than that. Strongest of all was 6Y5HN of course.

Got-aways included ZK1DI (40), 9J2BO (on 15m, band closed rather than opening!), ZL3GQ (80), 9L1PG (80) and where did the VE5s and ZSs go this year ? No VUs heard at all.

Glad to work UA9MA/C91 for a new Commonwealth member, but did he really have to have his keyer set at 'blurspeed' ? And I was amused to hear the G pile up on HR/N4MO who I don't think is in the Commonwealth these days.

Contest QSOs will be QSL'd 100% via the bureau or direct if you can't wait. QSLs for

QSOs outside the contest will be on-demand to me direct only. Hope you enjoy the picture!

I made about 500Qs for about 5000 points. Not enough to beat VE3EJ but not bad. Should be good enough for the top 5.

Commonwealth Day was the 10th March this year and in Cayman many of the schools had special Commonwealth events. Many of the stations I worked this year from ZF were after a contact with a DX station. This suggests to me that we might be able to build up a Commonwealth DX Weekend (CDXW) along the lines of the Marconi event, say with a special award for working Commonwealth stations. Or would this kill off participation in BERU ? And what about SSB? How about a corporate sponsor ? Any ideas anyone ?

The Commonwealth Contest is an interesting exercise, at least I find it so. More a question of tactics and agility, not sitting on one frequency all the time, persistence and hunting and pouncing. It is perhaps a gourmet contest, friendly and highly competitive, international. It needs sponsors and by the way it is CW!

Cayman is a world financial centre and tax free, so there are a lot of strange conversations to overhear at dinner, e.g.

- 'if 'goldfields' sink a new shaft it will cost them 15M$ but they might recover 5Moz !'

- how to trade your stock options in creative ways whilst practising the latest card tricks !

- how to offset your new power boat against personal tax!

and chatting over free champagne round the pool:

'What do you do for a living?' - 'Oh, I am in Intelligence'. This after seeing GoldenEye on the flight over.

Things to do, apart from radio, banking or getting sunburnt (very easy):

- the Museum in Georgetown. Try to read the book on the 1932 Hurricane. Eye witness accounts of the tidal waves on the three islands and the shipwreck and rescue from Serrana Cays (NA133), extraordinary, vivid and horrifying.

- Stingray City, fantastic and an absolute must. The stingrays swim all around you, even through your legs and you can touch them, a bit like very smooth velvet. The diving is excellent. I was seasick though.

- Great restaurants, the Lighthouse at Breakers for lunch.

- Shopping, lots of it.

We stayed at the Clarion, Grand Pavilion , lovely hotel, friendly staff.

And finally my thanks to Andrew, ZF1EJ, for the use of his facilities and help with local licensing.

And what's all this about 'Bob the fish ...', come to the CDXC AGM and find out!

Any ideas for next year will be considered.

CAYMAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Visiting HAM enthusiasts are invited to join the local meetings held on the second Monday in each month. Locally, you may contact Hams on 2 metres. The frequency is 146.76, negative offset. Visitors are invited to join the Cayman society (CI$ 25.00 per annum) which entitles the use of the club station.

To get your ZF2 licence, or to renew your existing one, contact George Town Post Office. On Sundays there are is a net at 1400z on 3.895 MHz, and also at 2100z on 21.275 MHz. For further information, contact John Darby at (809) 947-4660 or Fax: (809) 947-4839, or write to PO Box 1029, George Town, Grand Cayman, B.W.I.

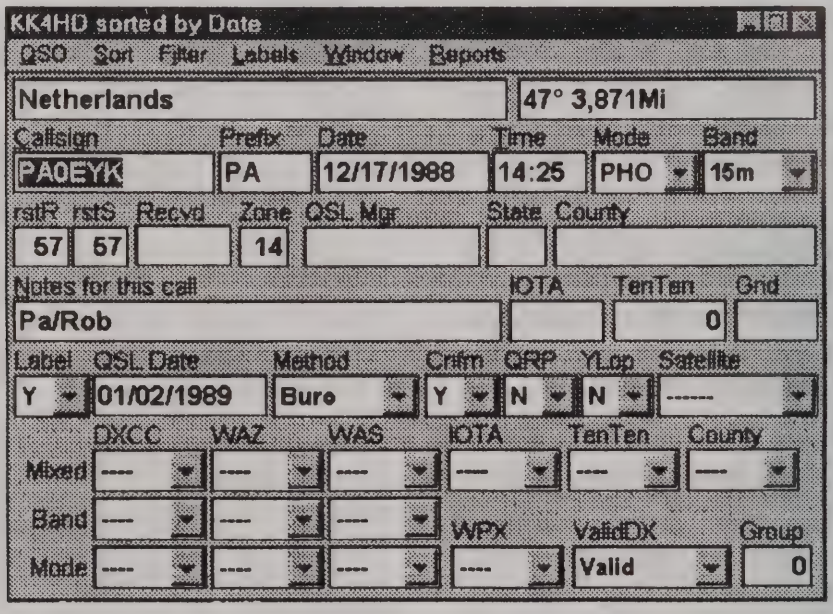
WINDOWS LOGGING SOFTWARE

Peter Bacon G3ZSS

I have used a computer for keeping my log book for a long time but recently I have been investigating Windows based logging software packages. My favourite package has been Turbolog and it is a difficult task to find a new software package that is equal to or better than Turbolog. Turbolog is an excellent package with many unique features not found in other packages. However, Turbolog is a DOS program and does have a number of limitations when running in a Windows environment. Following a recent upgrade to Windows 95, I decided that the time had come to find a replacement for Turbolog. In my search for a new software package I looked at Logic for Windows, DXbase, and AEA Log Windows. However I felt that none of these were up to the standard of Turbolog.

Recently I was checking through GJ4ICD's World Wide Web page on the Internet and saw a reference to a new program, DX4WIN that could be found at *http://www.erols.com/pvander*. This Internet site contains a full demonstration version of DX4WIN written by Paul van der Eijk, KK4HD.

DX4WIN is a program which will run under Windows or Windows 95 and is very easy to install and configure. The program has all the logging features you would expect of a comprehensive package plus a good interface to the packet cluster network.


KK4HD sorted by Date
QSO Sort Filter Labels Window Reports
Netherlands
47° 3,871Mi
Callsign Prefix Date Time Mode Band
PA0EYK PA 12/17/1988 14:25 PHO 15m
rstR rstS Recvd Zone QSL Mgr State County
57 57 14
Notes for this call IOTA TenTen Gnd
Pa/Rob 0
Label QSL Date Method Cnfm QRP YLop Satellite
Y 01/02/1989 Buro Y N N ------
DXCC WAZ WAS IOTA TenTen County
Mixed
Band
Mode
WPX ValidDX Group
Valid 0

Awards

For award hunters the package supports DXCC, WAS and WAZ as well as USA Countries, IOTA and TEN TEN.

QSL Labels

A nice feature of DX4WIN is the ability to print QSL labels using the popular Avery sheets including Laser labels. Multiple labels can be printed on a sheet and one label can accommodate more than one contact with the same station. If a station has a QSL manager then this information may also be printed on the label, for example "V85PB via G3ZSS". Being a Windows program, you can also select the font for the labels.

Packet Cluster

The packet cluster interface has a separate window for displaying spots. Spots are colour coded to reflect status of New Country/New Mode/New Band and spots are voice announced via the Windows Sound System. The user may select which type of spots to announce. If a spot contains any QSX frequencies in the comments field, then this information is used when "double-clicking" on a spot to force the rig to QSY, for example if a QSX frequency like WKD 14205 or UP 2 is found in the comments field, then my FT1000D will automatically set the rig to split mode and put VFO B on the appropriate frequency.

Reports

DX4WIN can generate a number of different reports, for example DXCC lists and summaries, as well as IOTA lists and summaries. The program can even print reports on Grid Squares worked which is very useful for 6 metre enthusiasts.

Import from Turbolog

One of the hardest parts of upgrading to a new program is importing information from another logging program. DX4WIN includes import filters for most popular packages including CT and NA. After correspondence with Paul KK4HD the package now includes an import filter for Turbolog files. Due to various bugs in Turbolog I do not believe that this procedure will work with TL versions before 3.08. In order to use this filter it is first necessary for you to create a new export file containing the information you want to export from the log book. In my case I set "search scope" to "ALL QSOs"; "Filter by" to "Pass all"; "Display" to all fields starting with "Date" and ending with "Comments"; "Sort" by "QSO order", "Delimiter" by "Spaces"; and finally "Execute" to a "data file". Despite doing all of the above I did find that the exported Turbolog file had a few glitches in the output file, for example putting the QSL information in the wrong column for a few QSOs, and would recommend that you should first check the file with a text editor before importing into DX4WIN. This import filter has worked fine for me in importing a very large file of my V85PB log as well as my current G3ZSS Log. However, although the log showed my DXCC credits, I did have to go through the log afterwards to update my DXCC credited records for a single band award (6m DXCC).

Radio Support

DX4WIN claims to support most popular most popular ICOM, Kenwood and Yaesu models. I have only been able to verify this with my FT1000 D. The program has a Panorama display function to show S meter readings for a range of frequencies centred on the current frequency. There is also a scanner function to allow you to monitor up to 16 frequencies with the frequencies being set from either the DX spotting window or from the radio.

Summary

I do like DX4WIN and would recommend that anyone considering an upgrade to a Windows based logging program should take a serious look at DX4WIN The program is still in a Beta stage of testing (version 0.97 is currently available as of 1 April 96) but I have found it to be stable with no problems. Paul, KK4HD, has also been very receptive to suggestions for improvements to the program, for example, my request to include European A4 sized label sheets, and the report on Grid squares. If anyone has any problems with importing Turbolog files then I will try my best to help out. Any mail may be addressed to pbacon@dialin.co.uk

73 Peter Bacon G3ZSS

CDXC DRAFT CONSTITUTION

Apologies, there were a couple of typos in the draft constitution published in the March NewLetter. Please correct your copy as follows:

Para 2. Aims	Second line "operating" not "operation"
Para 5. Finance	Final line "accounts" not "account".

Don't forget to pass your comments on the revised constitution to G0HXN before the AGM/EGM.

A MINI DX-PEDITION TO LES ILES CHAUSEY (EU-039)

Phil Whitchurch, G3SWH

Les Iles Chausey are a group of French islands situated in the Gulf of St Malo, just south of the Channel Islands. There are 52 islands permanently above sea level and 365 are uncovered at low tide, which rises and falls by some 14 metres, making it the highest in Europe, and third in the world. Only La Grande Ile, which is about 2 kilometres long and 700 metres across at its widest point, is inhabited today. As there is more than one island, it counts as a separate group for the RSGB's Islands on the Air Award (IOTA), reference EU-039. There is also a French islands award promoted by REF called DIFM, and La Grande Ile counts as MA04.

Some simple research revealed that there was a small, self catering, apartment block on La Grande Ile called La Ferme de Chausey available at a reasonable (for France) rental for a weekend in March, and who would allow us to put up antennas. There is a non vehicular ferry from the mainland port of Granville to the island on a daily basis; and the overnight cross channel ferry from Portsmouth arrives in Caen early enough to be able to drive the 115 kilometres to Granville in good time to catch the island ferry at 10 a.m. on the Saturday. The return trip at about 7 p.m. on the Sunday allows sufficient time to be able to make the return journey from Granville to Caen in time for the 11 p.m. sailing.

Everything seemed to mesh together nicely, so I co-opted Chris Burbanks, G3SJJ and made the necessary bookings. We chose the weekend of 23/24th March, as it was free of major contests, and was late enough in the year to stand a chance of reasonable weather.

Chris arranged to borrow the Yaesu FT-900AT from G3NUG of the IOTA Committee, and I arranged to take my ever faithful and well travelled Yaesu FT-101ZD. It was our plan to run two, 100 watt CW only stations for our 24 hours or so on the island, using the callsigns F/G3SWH/P and F/G3SJJ/P. We agreed that I would handle the QSLing arrangements for both callsigns.

We publicised our trip as far as possible using the DX News Sheet, the CDXC NewsLetter, on the PacketCluster and on the BBS system, and exchanged many Cluster mail messages about antennas, food, transport and the like. We arranged to meet at Rownham's Services on the M27 between Portsmouth and Southampton at 9.00 p.m. on Friday 22nd March, which gave us enough time to park Chris' car, transfer his kit to mine and get to the ferry terminal by the latest check in time of 10 p.m.. Unfortunately, Chris got held up in heavy traffic and failed to turn up. I then made the decision to carry on to the ferry terminal in the hope that, if he had been delayed he would meet me there. I resolved that I would go to Chausey on my own if he failed to show.

On arrival at Caen at 6.00 a.m. the following day, I took a deep breath, muttered "Drive on the right" and headed off down the autoroute towards Granville, arriving safely and in plenty of time to catch the ferry. The boat trip of about 15 kilometres took about an hour or so, and I was met at the landing stage by M Guery, the manager of La Ferme, with his tractor and trailer. This was most welcome, as in addition to the FT-101ZD (which weighs 19 kg) and the laptop computer, I had a cold box full of food, a camera bag, and a holdall with coax, antennas, Vibroplex, headphones etc., as well as my personal effects in it. I wasn't offered a lift, but had to walk the 500 or so metres to La Ferme itself, where I was met by Mme Guery who speaks quite good English. We completed the final formalities and she showed me to the tiny studio apartment which I had rented.

The complex is built on an open square with a grassy central courtyard. The buildings on the north and south sides have two storeys and are about 7 metres high; those on the east and west sides are single storey and are about 5 metres high. My first thought was of how to set up the antennas. I am a great believer in simple wire antennas, and have successfully used a number of resonant wire dipoles on a common coaxial feeder on previous expeditions, and had brought the same arrangement with me on this occasion. There were no likely looking trees or other suitable central supports within a sensible distance, so my only option was to use the ridges of the roofs of the higher buildings. This resulted in the centre of the antennas being in the clear, but only about 6 metres above the ground.

I had brought a catapult, a golf ball with a 4 mm hole drilled in it and a reel of 40 lb. breaking strain monofilament fishing line to rig the halyards. The catapult proved to be useless and I got much better results by throwing the golf ball with the fishing line attached over the roof ridges. The 80 metre dipole fitted quite nicely when run diagonally across the square and the only problem which I had in rigging the antennas was when the golf ball got caught in a guttering, and I very quickly had to learn the French for a ladder before I could borrow one.

The weather was wonderful and rigging the antennas took about an hour and a half or so, and I was all set up and ready to go by just after 2.00 p.m. I decided to try 30 metres, which is currently my favourite band, and the first CQ was answered immediately by DJ3XG. Conditions were generally disappointing but, apart from short breaks for calls of nature, cups of tea and light snacks I was then on the air continuously, using mainly 80, 40 and 30 metres until I closed down just after 10 p.m., having made 491 QSOs.

I had rather more sleep than I would have otherwise done, as I was more than a bit concerned at being over tired on the drive back to Caen the following evening, so I didn't resume until just after 6 a.m. on the Sunday morning. Again, apart from the usual reasons, I was on the air continuously until 4 PM when I had to close down in good time to take the antennas down and get packed up ready to catch the ferry back to Granville at 6.15 PM. Again, the weather was wonderful.

The 20 metre antenna proved to have a problem, as it would not resonate and gave a constant SWR of >3:1 over the whole band. I agonised over whether to take it down and try to fix it, which would have taken at least an hour, or to continue to work stations at an average rate of better than 50 an hour on the other bands. Given the very short operating time available, I decided to leave things as they were, and thus made no QSOs at all on 20 metres. 40 metres was also a disappointment, as I only worked 1 USA station on that band, out of a total of 484. I only worked 8 on 80, 11 on 30 and 2 on 17 metres. In all, I worked very little DX, i.e. stations outside Europe. The most likely answer is the relatively low centre height of the antennas, although several UK stations commented on how strong I was on 80 metres.

I used my rather ancient Compaq 286 based laptop computer running K1EA's CT version 7 program in DXpedition mode and using the computer keyboard to key the radio via the COM1 port. The breakdown of contacts is as follows:

BAND	80	40	30	20	17	ALL
QSOs	170	484	412	0	2	1068

Special QSL cards have been printed, and are available either direct (I'm QTHR in any callbook since 1970), or via the RSGB Bureau.

Ed: I got my EU-039 QSL from Phil within days of his return. If only all IOTA operations were as efficient at QSLing!

BV9P QSL STATUS

UK PacketCluster Network

Reply-To: KU9C@aol.com

I've received a number of requests requesting status of BV9P QSL cards, and wanted to post a short summary of the situation.

All card requests where the reports received match the reports in the CT label printout have been answered, with the exception of envelopes received in the last few weeks.

This statement has been widely interpreted to mean that 'all the cards are in the mail'. Please note that this is the majority of the cards, but there are a LOT of cards still to be processed, all due to the fact that they either do not match the labels printed by CT or have an additional request for another station I manage.

If the requests do not match the CT label printout exactly, this requires a rather painstaking review of the actual log sheets, which is a 6" stack of paper. As the logs were kept by operating station, rather than time, the log search often takes more than a few minutes per QSO check.

If you requested a QSL from another station I manage, I've made the assumption you want both of these cards before I return the envelope. I'm holding a few BV9P cards that are awaiting a 8P6 QSL confirmation! I'm slowly working through this pile, and if I don't have the logs of the second station, I'm returning the card with the assumption that you really want the BV9 card...and will re-QSL if the other is needed. I'm sure I will hear a few flames on this decision, but hopefully a few thanks as well!

Here are a few things that are causing the remaining cards to go slowly:

QSO claimed is for a dupe contact; CT prints only the first contact per band/mode.

In this case, I search the CT database and things are resolved quickly, but the QSL request does end up in the 'bad' box for a while.

QSO claimed was actually logged as a different call. It's a real eye opener to me as to how many 'similar' calls have been requested. In the vast majority of cases, I'm almost certain that these are not busted calls, as the actual call logged has requested a QSL.

In looking through the 'bad QSL' box, the majority of cards are those with multiple QSO requests, which by simple probability opens itself to missing a QSO in the label. The majority are from JA-land, with the west coast of the USA and Europe suffering somewhat as well.

The plan is to complete the task, for those envelopes received BEFORE April 1 by the end of April, or the first week of May. I'll post a note when that is actually a fact. I do appreciate everyone's patience, and the many nice notes of thanks for receiving the cards, and the notes of understanding from those still waiting.

73 es DX

Steve KU9C ku9c@aol.com

VP8 TRIP

Reg, GW8VHI/DA4RG will be in the Falklands from May 11th to circa September 11th 1996. Reg expects to be able to make a trip to South Georgia, from where he may be able to be QRV, but to facilitate this, Reg needs to borrow an HF rig. If you can help, Reg can be reached at G0OIL or *k.rose@aston.ac.uk* marked "FAO REG"

Reg says "I will run no lists nets etc. but just run pile ups. I hate nets and lists. Operation will be SSB only as my CW just isn't up to that sort of thing, but I am more than able to hold my own on SSB."

CUSHCRAFT R7000 (1)

UK PacketCluster Network

Hi, I have just returned from a holiday in the States. Whilst I was there, I visited the local hamstore in Clearwater FL to purchase, amongst other items, a R7 vertical. It's now being replaced by the R7000, this antenna is much more strongly built, and Cushcraft have gone back to using conventional traps. I used it during my stay and it works fine.

We were hit by a violent tropical storm and the antenna does not do the frightening movements its predecessor did.

Here are some details of its spec.

Power rating 1500 watts
VSWR 1.2:1 Typical
2:1 Bandwidth (kHz) 10m (1700) 12m (100) 15m (450) 17m (100) 20m (250) 30m (100) 40m (150) Height 24ft
Weight 18lbs

It only takes a few minutes to assemble, ideal for mini DXpeditions. So if you are thinking of buying a R7, wait a while - I am sure they will be over here soon. It's the same price as the R7.

73 de Pete G3KNU

CUSHCRAFT R7000 (2)

UK PacketCluster Network

I have installed a R7000, the new Cushcraft 7 band 1/2 wave vertical, on a short pole about 5 ft off the ground. Results so far seem to be about 5 S-points down on my GEM Quad at 35ft, and comparison with a vertical dipole on 20m seem to be about the same, but QSB is different on the vertical dipole than the R7K.

The R7K is very well made and a vast improvement on the previous R7 that I have seen at various rallys etc. and does not suffer from the same bending problems in a strong wind. I hope to have it on test for a while thanks to the kind generosity of Pete G3KNU. If any one wants to have alook you are quite welcome to pop in and hve a cuppa.

73 GL de Bill, G3MCS

COCOS-KEELING (VK9C) DXPEDITION

UK PacketCluster Network

Reply-To: VK1FF@contesting.com (Jim Muller VK1FF)

DXpedition Announcement for Cocos-Keeling Island (VK9C)

Dates: 18 May - 31 May, 1996

Bands: All HF

Modes: Primarily SSB, with the possibility of some CW

OPs: VK4FW (ex-VK4CRR), VK2IVK (YL), VK4DHM, and possibly more.

QSL: Via VK4FW, Bill Horner, 26 Iron St, Gympie, QLD 4570, AUSTRALIA

Call: To be announced later.

Misc: Flight, excess baggage, and accommodation have been paid. The equipment has been checked and is ready. The team are looking forward to making contact with as many stations as possible as well as make special effort to work stations as far away as possible.

73, Jim Muller

Packet:
VK1FF@VK1KCM.ACT.AUS.AUNZ
VK1FF/WB2FFY

Internet: VK1FF@contesting.com

CT3/PA3GIO/M

CDXC member Bert van den Berg, PA3GIO made 2052 SSB QSOs in 32 hours of operation during the period 18th-25th March 1995 from Madeira (AF-014).

Bert says the QSLs (which I have samples of, and are full colour photographs of Madeira) will be at the QSL Bureau shortly.

Bert plans to operate /M or /P from the Isle of Man (EU-116) from Friday 5th July to Wednesday 17th July. QSL via the bureau or direct to PA3GIO (95/96 CB)

DXPEDITION TO SOUTH PACIFIC

UK PacketCluster Network

Hello dear friends. I will start to the South Pacific area as follows:

10th April from Germany via Los Angeles to Raratonga (Cook islands) Call sign at this time unknown but licence will be OK.

19th April I will fly from Raratonga to Sydney, Australia. Call sign will be VK2IFB till 27th April.

27th April I will leave Australia to Christchurch, New Zealand. Call sign will be DF8AN/ZL.

3rd May I will leave New Zealand to Nuku Alofa, Tonga. Call sign not known at this time, but listen for A35 call.

8th May - I leave Tonga to Apia, Western Samoa. A 5W call will be sure. I stay in Western Samoa until 13th May but I will try for one day to American Samoa. My visitor's licence as KH8/DF8AN has just arrived here. I also have a call sign from Fiji as 3D2MN. If there is a flight, I will operate from that country, too.

I prefer CW on the usual frequencies but I will operate 100% QRP with 5 Watts on 7, 21 and 50 MHz. My station will be the HT750 Handy include a 5 Watt amplifier. I used that station during my last year South-East Asian QRP-DXpedition as 9N1AN, VR2/DF8AN and HS8/DF8AN and it works. So, I hope, to meet you this year, too.

QSL will be direct or via bureau to DF8AN, Michael Noertemann, Amselstieg 4, D-38226 Salzgitter, Germany. I will try to be QRV each day at sunset local time with a dipole antenna. See you down the log....73 de Mike, DF8AN

EU-099 LES MINQUIERS.

G3RTE (Jim) and G3SWH (Phil) will be active from Les Minquiers EU-099 from 28th June to the 1st July (weather permitting). Calls will be GJ3RTE/P SSB and GJ3SWH/P CW. They will try to run two stations 80m to 10m. ALL QSLing will be handled by Phil G3SWH, direct or via the bureau.

Phil will also be operating from EU-067 whilst on holiday in early June.

CROKER ISLAND, OC-???

UK PacketCluster Network

Hi to all Island Chasers!!!! I have some good news! Stuart (VK8NSB) of Groote Eylandt and Melville Island fame, has now been given permission to activate and operate on a NEW Island.

This island is Croker Island OC-???. The island QTH is Minjilang, and Stuart will be active from the School located at Mamaruni. This has taken a lot of negotiation with the local community and should be a very good Island to acquire for further amateur activity!!!

The dates for this activation are from 8th August 1996 to 14th August 1996 (7 Days).

QSL is via Manager VK8HA either direct or via the bureau

The call sign for the operation has not yet been finalised.

Please, if you have any enquiries about this activation, I will only be too happy to answer any or all Packets sent to my BBS, vk2nph@vk2klw.nsw.aus.oc

Good luck to all Island chasers , best regards Paul in Maitland , vy 73.

PS This is only the start of islands to come , so please watch your BBSs!!

8R1AK/P HOG ISLAND, SA-068

UK PacketCluster Network

IOTA checkpoint have not accepted my 8R1AK/p card from Esmond as they need more info on the operation. Does anyone know how long Esmond was on Hog island, how many contacts, etc. Bruce, G3HSR

Ed: Can anyone help Bruce with this? I have a card for 8R1AK P for SA-068 which I have not yet submitted. My card clearly says Wakenham Island. I hope this will be accepted!

SKYCOMPRO VERSION 2.0

SKYCOM PRO version 2.0 is one of the most powerful High Frequency (HF) radio propagation packages available and will now accurately ray-trace signals in three-dimensions.

Here are some of the powerful new features:

- Completely new comprehensive ray-tracing function traces signals through a three-dimensional ionosphere and magnetosphere!
- Ray trace ordinary and/or extraordinary rays!
- Display real-time maps of the auroral zones, grey lines, and any of the available global ionospheric maps (all at once)!
- Computation of radio signal field strengths.
- Land/ocean/ice geographical database supported.
- Produce 24-hourly graphs of maximum usable frequencies along any path.
- Define the transmitter antenna radiation pattern.
- SKYCOM pro includes appropriate data for many different types of antennas.
- Comprehensively ray-trace signals through the ionosphere using a variety of selectable standard models.
- SKYCOM pro remains very easy to use and understand.
- Detailed numerical results of comprehensive ray-tracings can be produced.
- Define the altitude of the transmitter above the surface of the earth for three-dimensional ray-tracing.

SKYCOM PRO includes all of the other features which complemented previous versions of SKYCOM. A few of the more significant features include:

- Perform full HF or VHF spectrum analysis
- Study the effects of Sporadic-E on radio signals.
- Generate Oblique Ionograms between any two locations.
- Simultaneously observe changes in the electron density as the signals are traced and refracted from one point to another.
- Examine the effects of signal convergence and divergence caused by ionospheric refraction.
- Estimate effects of solar on the ionosphere and signals traversing the daylit sides of the influenced ionosphere.
- Determine the total distance traversed inside or outside the ionosphere.
- Examine the effects on transpolar or transauroral circuits.
- Determine the total distance traversed by signals inside the influential auroral zones.
- Determine ray-traced Maximum Usable Frequencies for practically any path.
- Change the colours used by SKYCOM's menu and text to anything you desire.
- Produce in-depth complex global maps of ionospheric characteristics The range of constructable maps include:
  - Maximum Usable Frequencies for any time of day.
  - M-factors for 3000 km distances.
  - Critical E or F2 layer frequencies.
  - Solar zenith angles (elevation of the Sun).
  - Maximum height of the F2 layer.
  - Transverse CROSS-SECTIONS of the ionosphere for any path.
  - Geomagnetic DIP or inclination angles throughout the world.
  - Total Field Intensity of the geomagnetic field.
  - Magnetic Latitude or Modified DIP angles.
- Select transmitter & receiver locations from our geographical database or add your own locations to the database.
- Rigorously compute the FOT, or Frequency of Optimum Transmission, ensuring at least 85% of the transmitted power is reflected by the ionosphere.

PRICING:

The regular rate of $110.00 applies for less than three orders. For three or more orders, SKYCOM PRO is priced at $80.00 each. *Ed: Martin Atherton, G3ZAY, is co-ordinating purchase. If you wish to take advantage of the bulk purchase price, please contact Martin directly.*

ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER

This Newsletter depends for its success on contributions from members. Contributions may take the form of news items, letters, articles on HF operating, DXpedition reports, contesting, equipment reviews etc. In general, most items of HF content are welcome.

I am happy to receive articles in any form. However, it is obviously much less work for me if I don't have to type the article up, and, for that reason prefer articles to be submitted in electronic form, preferably produced using a modern word processor. The Newsletter is produced using Word For Windows 6.0, which can accept most current WP file formats, but ***please always also include on disk a plain text version of the file, and also supply hard copy***, just in case something goes wrong with the translation, as it often does with tabular information, or the disk can't be read, which sometimes happens either because it gets corrupted in the post, or the alignment of the disk drive in the originating machine is wildly out - it has been known to happen! Floppy disks will be returned with the Newsletter.

For those using Word 6 for the production of articles, I can supply a template which will enable the article to be produced directly in the Newsletter format - please get in touch if you'd like a copy.

Small items may be submitted via PacketCluster, but my link to the system is sometimes a little tenuous, so this is not always a reliable method for longer articles. Alternatively use email - my address is *alanj@pires.co.uk*.

If you don't have access to a PC, then, of course, I would still like to receive articles, and these should preferably be typewritten, although clear hand-written items are always acceptable. These may be Faxed to me at +44 *(0)1767 677 913* or mailed to the address on the front cover of the NewsLetter.

The deadline for submitting articles is the seventh of the month prior to the month of publication, although I can take late news and small items up to about two weeks later. Please do try to let me have submissions by the deadline, as production of the Newsletter is quite time consuming, and has to be fitted in around other things such as work, family, and other leisure activities, and even some occasional operating!

Please keep the input coming!

73 Alan Jubb, G3PMR, Editor, CDXC Newsletter

RULES FOR CDXC HONOR ROLL CHASER'S TABLE

Below are the rules for the *CDXC Honor Roll Chaser's Table*. The table will be published next in the *July* Newsletter. Entries should be sent to G3PMR in the format published in the March Newsletter.

Rules

- Open to all CDXC members in all countries
- Also open to UK non members
- Also open to those who have already achieved HR status
- Qualifying number: 250 current DXCC countries confirmed in one or more of the categories.
- Categories are CW, SSB and Mixed, with both current and current plus deleted confirmed scores being shown.
- Position in the table will be based on the *current* confirmed score in the *mixed* category. For single mode entries, the mixed score will be assumed to be equal to the mode score.
- UK non members will be shown one time only. They will be encouraged to join CDXC, and will be deleted from future tables if they remain a non-member.
- Entries to be sent to the Newsletter Editor by the usual publication deadline.
- The table will be published in the July, November and March issues of the Newsletter.

Bren, G4DYO has kindly offered to provide a certificate to those CDXC members achieving a score of 270+ who have not yet achieved Honor Roll status. (And a very FB certificate it is, too).

If you qualify, and haven't reached HR status yet, do please let me have your score. If you are already in the table, please let me have an update to your score, even if it hasn't changed. Those not updating within a year of their last update will be deleted from the table.

Vine Antenna Products proudly announces the arrival of

Alpha Power to the U.K.

Ehrhorn Technological Operations Inc (ETO)

has appointed Vine sole UK and Eire sales and service agent for their Amateur Amplifier range.

Other products may have the watts,
Only Alpha has *full* protection against

- **Improper tuning**
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- **Wrong antenna connected**
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ETO 91β - Superb IMD's from manual tuned pair of *low cost* 4CX800A tetrodes with Vacuum relay QSK - £ 2249.

Fully automatic Alpha 87A (no tune - senses band from input signal and switches automatically) - pair of 3CX800A7 triodes with totally silent PIN diode T/R switching- £4750

All *Alpha / ETO* amplifiers

- **can run 1500W continous power out, no time limit, key down, any mode. Yes, that's *continuous* RTTY or SSTV, 24 hours a day, all year if required.**
- **Come with Hypersil / Unisil-H power transformers rated at at 3 KVA plus**
- **Are warranted for a full two year period.**
- **need only 55-60 watts input drive for full rated output.**
- **Have full AC step/start, HV crowbar, automatic trips for anode and grid overcurrent, mistuning, high SWR, etc.**
- **Have full metering including RF peak power scale.**
- **Come from ETO - a world renowned RF high power technology company with over 25 years experience in supplying the best amateur amps available.**

Full details (plus our usual World Class antennas) available from Vine Antenna Products - Tel 01691 831111, Fax 01691 831386 Email - ron@gw3ydx.demon.co.uk

NEED WE SAY MORE?

Martin Lynch & Son
140-142 Northfield Avenue,
Ealing, London W13 9SB.

Dear Sir.

Repair to FT-1000

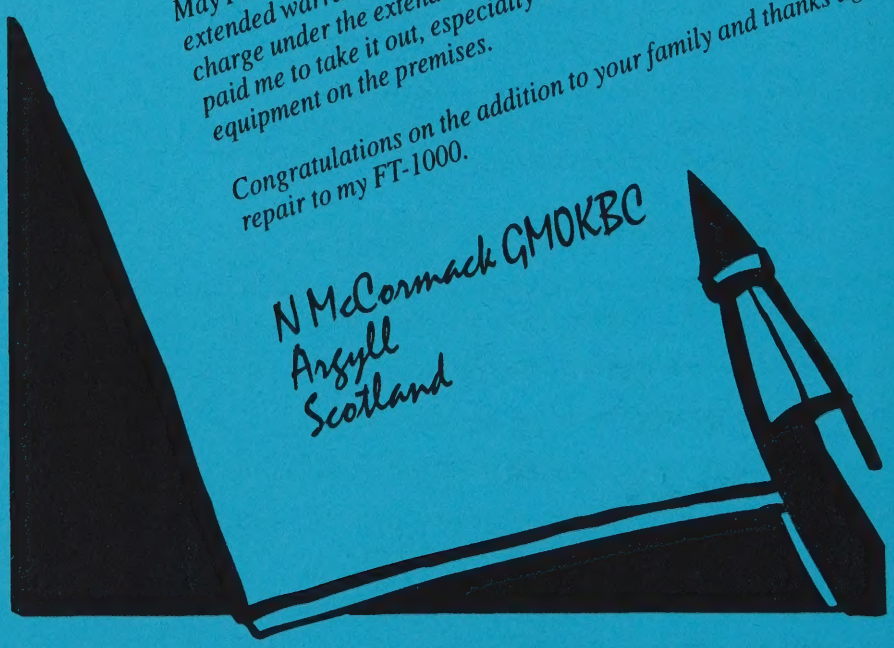
I wish to place on record my thanks to you and your very helpful staff for the excellent service I received from your organisation when my FT-1000 broke down. Too often people only write to complain so it is nice to be able to record such a speedy uplift and repair to the FT-1000.

I phoned Andy on the Saturday, the set was uplifted at 0930 hours on the Monday and it was back with me a forghtnight later. I would have had it sooner but you could not get me on the phone to advise me it was ready. So that is excellent service and I doubt if any dealer could have improved on your timings.

May I add that the advice you gave me on the benefit of taking out insurance for an extended warranty has proved invaluable, the set being collected and returned free of charge under the extended scheme. It might seem a little bit extra at the time but it has paid me to take it out, especially when it is a dealer like yourself who can repair equipment on the premises.

Congratulations on the addition to your family and thanks again for a very efficient repair to my FT-1000.

N McCormack GM0KBC
Argyll
Scotland



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